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I speak of Africa and golden joys."

WINTER IN ALGIERS

WITH

Notes on Hammam R'irha, Biskra, and
other Places of Interest in Algeria.

BY

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PREFACE.

In view of the growing popularity of Algiers as a winter resort, I have thought it desirable to place at the disposal of my fellow-practitioners a few notes descriptive of its climatic advantages and their therapeutical bearings, together with sundry details that may prove useful to intending visitors.

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M.R.C.S.Eng., D.P.H.Lond.

Aix-les-Bains
(May to Sept.).

Mustapha-Supérieur, Algiers
(Oct. to April).

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Addison, in his "Ode to the King" (1695), has an amusing reference to the North African coast, especially in view of the fact that the British Government paid annual tribute to the Algerian pirates to purchase freedom from attack for our commerce.

"The Navy rides on seas before unprest,
And strikes a terror through the haughty East.
Algiers and Tunis from their sultry shore
With horror hear the British engines roar.
Fain from the neighbouring dangers would they run,
And wish themselves still nearer to the sun."



ALGERIA.

“Come near, O sun, O south wind, blow
And set the winter’s captives free.”



Across the Desert.

AMONG the ancients were many great travellers in spite of the obstacles to be overcome and the risks incurred by those who wandered far from home in those days. Numerous are the vestiges of their presence, literary and monumental, which they have left in Algeria. From east to west the Mediterranean shore abounds in ruins, Greek, Phœnician, Roman and Moorish, testifying to extinct or dying civilizations. Thousands of acres still remain unexplored, acres “where the soil heaves in many a mouldering heap,” imperfectly hiding the remains of once flourishing cities, where crowns of arches and fragments of marble columns emerging from grassy hillocks or

sandy wastes mark the sites of forts and cities, temples and palaces of which the very names may have faded from human memory. The excavator occasionally



Sarcophagus at Tipaza.

unearths a sarcophagus, richly sculptured in *bas-relief*, reviving for a brief period the memory of some mag-nate of the dead and buried past, mutilated statues illustrative of the art of the period, arms, urns, coins,

jewels, and domestic utensils.

Numerous are the ancient writers who have be-queathed to us their enthusiastic appreciation of the climate of this interesting land, or at any rate of that part of it in which they had elected domicile. They likened it to the Garden of the Hesperides, and, having returned to their native shores, they fondly described it as a land exempt from frost and possessed of an incomparably healthy climate. Sculptors incarnated the fertility of its soil in the classic female figure crowned with ears of corn and scantily clothed in wreaths of the same.



Corinthian Capital.

Algeria, which is within twenty-two hours' sail of Marseilles by the powerful turbine steamers of the Transatlantique Company, has a population of 3,649,936, including 320,000 French, and is almost as big as France. It covers something like 150,000 square miles, and is divided into three provinces—Algiers, Constantine, and Orania. The fertile part of it lies between the Sahara and the Mediterranean—between the desert and the deep sea—and in this

geographical position is to be found the explanation of its peculiarities of climate. The air, heated and rarefied by contact with the burning sands of the Sahara unprotected by vegetation, rises in a vertical column, drawing in its wake currents of air from the Polar regions. These currents arrive in light, cool breezes which the ancients called "venti delicati," "venti somniculares."

The wind from the north, however, is greatly modified before it reaches Algeria. The mountain ramparts of Southern Europe, the Pyrenees, the Alps, the Balkans, the Taurus and the Caucasus, form a snow-clad screen on which the north winds deposit their moisture ere they traverse the Mediterranean on their way south. The movement of air in the summer therefore determines a stream of cool air from the north.

The country is traversed in every direction by



Bronzes from Timgad.

numerous chains of mountains, more particularly from the north-east to the south-west. Between these ranges are vast plateaux, remarkable alike for their



[Geiser, photo.
Arab Praying.

African sun vegetation assumes the most beautiful forms, and the eye reposes with delight on range



[Geiser, photo.
A Mokhazin (Mounted Official).

extent, uniformity, and the picturesque and often grandiose frame of mountains in which they are set. Their immensity and the unsurpassed transparency of the atmosphere confer upon the Algerian landscape a charm peculiarly its own, a charm which impresses even those who are familiar with the suave beauties of Spain and Italy.

In the splendour of the after range of mountains seen through a purple haze, breaking the horizon line against the transparent blue sky, with here and there what appear to be patches of dark green, but in reality are forests of considerable size, an Arab tomb gleaming white in the far distance, the motionless column of smoke from

a shepherd's fire, seen through the limpid air that shows the most trivial details as distinctly as the grosser features—all these make a landscape of tremulous beauty.

In a country covering such an immense area the climate necessarily varies according to latitude, altitude, and proximity to the sea. While in the highlands, on the mountain plateaux, the cold is at times intense, nearer the coast, especially on shores hemmed in by mountains, the winters are remarkably mild and equable. Originally covered, no doubt, by immense forests, the country is now in great part arid and bare. The forests have gradually disappeared before the encroachments of



[Geiser, photo.]

A Kabyle.

man, the destruction of the trees having for object partly to clear the soil for cultivation and partly, we may assume, to provide a zone of protection against the wild beasts and reptiles which, in ages past, peopled the forests. This process of denudation, steadily carried on for many centuries, has had for result to reduce the rainfall and to convert huge tracts of land into wilderness on which even the frugal goat



[Geiser, photo.]

An Algerian Fellah.

can scarcely find subsistence. *Cælo terraque penuria aquarum* are the words in which Sallust described the Algeria of his day; but this is an exaggeration, since

the rainfall outside the desert is equal to, if not in excess of, that of Central Europe, and water can often be obtained by boring for it. Steps are now being taken to remedy the damage wrought by countless generations of wood-fellers, and under an enlightened administration forest planting is proceeding apace.

Authors ancient and modern have discoursed enthusiastically of the incomparable brilliancy and clearness of the Algerian sky, where the foliage resists the summer heat and where winter is not ushered in by

“The eternal havoc of the sodden leaves
Rotting the floor of autumn.”



An Arab Encampment.

This obviously cannot apply to all parts of Algeria, but it is true enough of Algiers and its immediate neighbourhood. According to the altitude and the latitude we get all gradations of climate, from that of Switzerland to one surpassing the most favoured

nooks of Southern Europe. Algeria does not present the characteristics of the so-called hot climates. Although the glare and heat of the summer appear intense, and although the winter is, generally speaking, very mild, cold is felt in a degree altogether



Dancing Girl.

out of proportion to the temperature as indicated by the thermometer ; in fact the impressions conveyed by the senses by no means always accord with the information afforded by meteorological instruments. It is only in summer that oscillations of temperature are at all violent ; in winter the diurnal

variations of temperature remain within comparatively narrow limits. The abrupt oscillations of summer are productive of very heavy dews, so heavy indeed as



Mosque of Sidi Abd-er-Rahman.

[Geiser,
photo.]

often to amount to a haze or mist, but this phenomenon is exceptional during the winter months, the evening fall, as a rule, not greatly exceeding the limits of saturation.



One of the peculiarities of the climate is the tendency to rapid radiation of heat, and this is particularly well marked in autumn and winter. The finer the day the more pronounced is this phenomenon, and even a

brief period of repose in the shade is apt to determine a dangerous degree of refrigeration without any

warning of the peril. In Europe there is little danger of forgetting that it is winter; the air is cold, there are ice and snow, and immobility is productive of discomfort; but on a fine day in Algeria, when the thermometer in the shade marks between 72° and 77° F., when the sun is shining brightly and the wind is hardly strong enough to stir the foliage, there is nothing to place the traveller on his guard, and unless forewarned he may fall a victim to this treacherous brightness in the shape of acute inflammatory affections of the lungs, &c.



Out for a Walk.

THE FLORA OF ALGERIA.

The rotation of the seasons does not modify the glamour of the Algerian sky for more than a few days at a time. In autumn,

when the first rains moisten the soil, parched by long months of absolute drought, forthwith it becomes covered with a delicate carpet of flower-spangled verdure. Vegetation is everywhere bursting into life, as when "Spring unlocks the flowers to paint the laughing soil"; indeed, one might think it



Temple of Victory (Timgad).

were really spring-time, but that the rare European trees, unable to accustom themselves to this inversion of the seasons, are hesitatingly shedding their leaves.

In December the fields are already bedizened with gay flowers, and in this limpid air the winter sun diffuses delightful brightness and warmth throughout the day.



Young Bedouins.

In January, growth proceeds apace; the spare corners are occupied by the large, glossy, dentated leaves of the *Acanthus*, which sup-

plied architects with the design for the ornamentation of the Corinthian column; the *Asphodel*, beloved of poets, rears its stalk, soon to be adorned with an array of white flowers, from which emanates a powerful, thoroughly disagreeable odour; the giant fennel (*Ferula*), from a bed of feathery green, sends up its mossy stem to a height of several feet, crowned by tufts of yellow flowers; the dusty green foliage of the *Absinthe* shrub fills in the hollows, and by the end of the month the various members of the *Iris* family add their bright hues to the floral picture.

Of field flowers the most conspicuous is the sweet *Alyssum*.

These tiny white flowers, redolent of honey, grow in abundance in the fields above Mustapha, covering them with a sheet of floral snow. There is plenty of tall, odourless



Mignonette. The *Oxalis* (wood-sorrel) clothes the banks with its clover-like leaves of tender green, from which emerge bright yellow flowers that follow the sun in its course, and tightly twist their petals when it sinks behind the hills.

The coarse-leaved *Borage* rears its stars of heavenly blue, and in favoured spots the yellow, pendulous spheres of the *Globe Flower* nod to the breeze. A little later and the *Cornsalad* with its little panicles of



“Meads of Asphodel.”

mauve flowers, and the blue and red *Bugloss* make their appearance ; the wild *Marigold* dots the meadows with orange, and the tremulously graceful *Honeywort* lolls its purple bracts and little white bells along the roadside. In neglected corners a handsome, striated thistle spreads leaves with geometrical designs, ultimately capped by a purple tuft. The wild *Lavender* grows in secluded dells, and a giant species of white *Heather* covers the breezier tracts of waste land. The *Cyclamen*, devoid of its characteristic odour, contributes its pale mauve flowers ; dense clumps of shiny, leathery leaves reveal the whereabouts of the *Squill*,

and numerous varieties of the *Orchid* family tempt the amateur botanist.

In February the fields are gay with buttercups and daisies, narcissus and daffodil, the crocus-like flowers of the colchicum, and the mauve Algerian mallow.

Among the trees met with on the southern shores of the Mediterranean are various species of Plane, Pine, and Oak, including that from which cork is obtained,



The Strelitzia.

the Eucalyptus, and the Cedar. The stately Cypress takes the place of the European Poplar, its smooth-grained wood being much employed in the manufacture of the cheaper kinds of furniture. The Fig-tree, denuded of its leaves at this season, displays its grotesquely gnarled trunk and distorted branches, justifying the epithet of the "apocalyptic tree" bestowed upon it on account of its

fantastic ugliness. The straggling outline and dusty-green foliage of the wild Olive, with its biblical associations, is a familiar feature of most southern landscapes.

The main roads are lined by various species of Rubber, Locust, and Pepper trees. The last of these is particularly decorative with its delicate foliage, gracefully pendent branches, and twining clusters of red berries. Early in the year the Almond-tree dons its pinkish-white mantle of flowers, and in March the bare limbs of the Judas-tree become covered with a dense pink-mauve efflorescence. The fragrant Japanese Medlar (Loquat) is in full bloom in mid-winter, and

numerous varieties of Mimosa embalm the air with their wreaths of yellow flowerets.

The Datura, with its large, scented, bell-shaped flowers, sways in the wind, side by side with the



A Garden at Mustapha.

Buddleya, which bears large spikes of yellow flowerets with a penetrating, honey-like odour and the Castor-oil tree with its dusky-red branches and flowers. An exotic note is struck by the numerous representatives of the Cactus family, which rear their weirdly monstrous

exuberance on every hand, along with the spiky Aloe (Agave) and the tufted Yucca. There are many varieties of Palm, the commonest being the *Phoenix canariensis*, the Date Palm, and the Chamærops.

Early in the year the Orange and Lemon trees display their little white buds which, ere long, expand into multitudes of flowers with an overpowering, characteristic odour.



The Bassour.

Walls and houses are resplendent the winter through with the pink, crimson, purple, or terra-cotta bracts of the Bougainvillæa, named after the celebrated French navigator. The flower is yellow and quite insignificant. The golden yellow of the Bignonia creeper, the scarlet flowers of the odorous Geranium, and many varieties of the Rose,

compete for admiration with the profuse lilac of the Wistaria, the vivid blue of the Plumbago, and the variegated colours of the Lantana.

The hedges, which are made up for the most part of Wild Olive, the Strawberry-tree (*Arbousier*), Lentiscus (the commonest and hardiest shrub or small tree in Algeria), Dwarf Oak, Cactus, the ivory Acacia with its huge thorns, and the Prickly Pear, are festooned with the large striated purple bells of the Convolvulus and the Clematis with its cotton-like seed-tufts. The daintily fretted foliage of the wild Asparagus is to be found everywhere, and the bitter taste of the plant is appreciated by the natives, while Europeans use the foliage for decorative purposes.

Other flowering shrubs are the Myrtle, the Oleander, the Rosemary, and several varieties of Laurel.

Most of the trees are evergreens, and appear to best advantage during the winter months. South of the Mediterranean plants grow in winter and spring, and cease to develop, or even wither, in the summer, in



A Family of Nomads.



Fields of Alyssum.

curious contrast to the sequence of events in northern Europe, where cold winds are whistling through bare branches. These numerous evergreen species confer a special *cachet* upon the Mediterranean flora; the

trees and shrubs in general have leaves that vary in consistence from the toughness of leather to the crispness of parchment. Thanks to these qualities they are enabled to resist the parching heat of the summer.

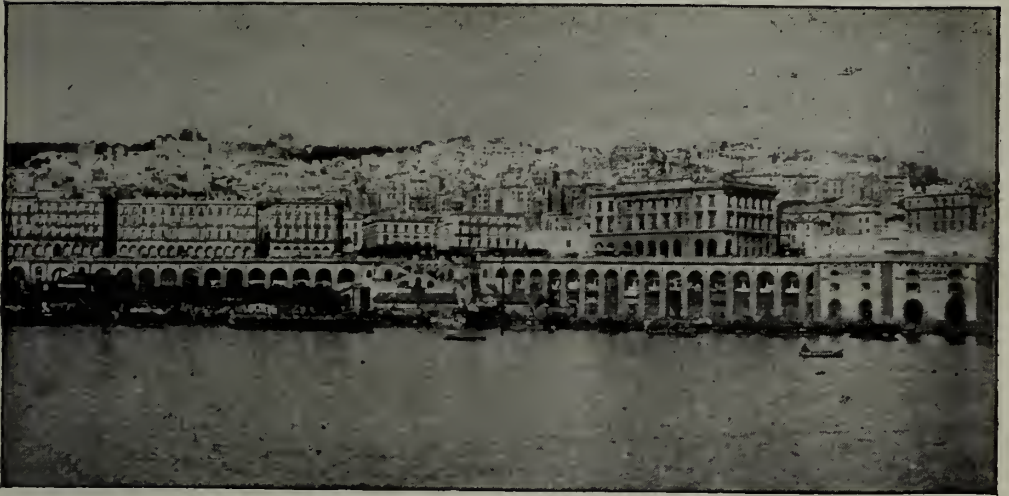
“O happy, happy boughs that cannot shed
Your leaves nor ever bid the spring adieu.”

The date does not ripen in Algiers, but the oases of the southern Sahara provide an ample supply of this delicious fruit, brought by caravan to Biskra, hence “dattes de Biskra,” being a sort of trade mark, is a guarantee of high quality. The staple agricultural products of Algeria, however, are grapes, wine, olive oil, cork, and tobacco. Fresh vegetables are abundant and cheap throughout the winter, and a large export trade is done in *primeurs*.¹

¹ Travellers who are interested in plants may consult “The Flora of Algeria,” and “La Flore Saharienne,” by the same author.

ALGIERS.

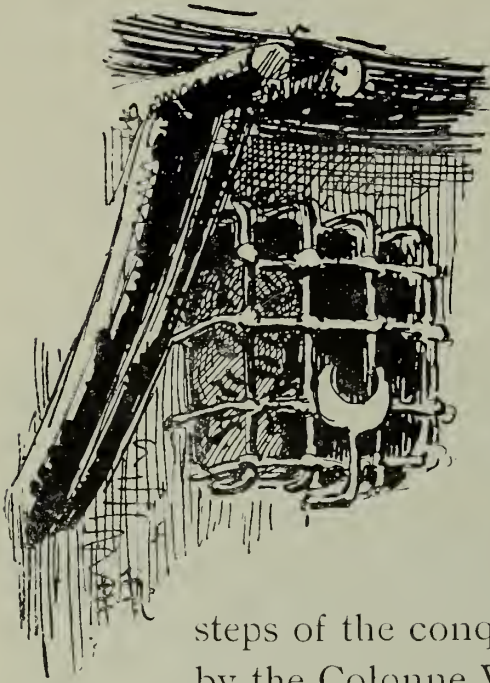
“The heartsick are healed in the sunshine,
The sorry are sad no more.”



Algiers—Sea-front.

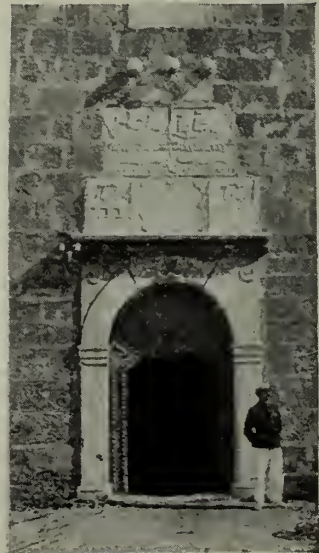
ALGIERS, the native name for which is *El Djezair*, is the thriving metropolis of France's premier colony. Less than a century ago it was the headquarters of a band of Turkish pirates who for upwards of three centuries had preyed on the maritime traffic of the world and levied annual tribute in cash on the principal European States. Many thousands of Englishmen, belonging to all classes of society, have laboured under the lash and died of privation and ill-treatment in years gone by, and this opprobrious form of slavery continued until, after a preliminary thrashing by Lord Exmouth in 1816, followed by the liberation

of some 1,200 Christian slaves, the Dey of Algiers and his janissaries were cleared out by the French expedition under General de Bourmont and Admiral Duperré in 1830.



The French landed at Sidi Ferruch, a spot about eighteen miles to the west of Algiers, and after three weeks' sharp fighting victory crowned their arms and they took possession of the city, where treasure sufficient to pay the expenses of the expedition was discovered in the Dey's palace. The final

steps of the conquest of Algiers are marked by the Colonne Voirol (1833), at the top of Mustapha-Supérieur, and another, dated 1850, in front of the Hôtel Beau-Séjour, bearing the inscription "*In hoc signo vinces.*" It was many years before the grip of the French closed on Algeria as a whole, and the last insurrection of any importance was in 1871, when the natives, emboldened by the withdrawal of troops, made one more desperate effort to throw off the foreign yoke; the movement was soon crushed, though not before the Arabs had devastated a large area of territory and massacred many of the inhabitants.



The Admiralty.

For many years past order has reigned throughout these vast territories, and

except in certain regions in the south of the Sahara, travellers are as safe as they would be in Central Europe.

The city has rapidly increased in size during the last twenty years, and now numbers some 135,000 inhabitants, comprising 30,000 Arabs and 27,000 foreigners. It is 450 miles from Marseilles, the crossing by the powerful turbine steamers of the Transatlantique Company taking about twenty-two hours, 1,020 miles from

Paris, and 1,280 from London, the through journey taking fifty hours. Algiers is the principal coaling station in the Mediterranean, so that there is plenty of movement in the port, and 50 per cent. of the vessels are English. There is a large export trade, especially in wine, cork, cereals, hides, alfa grass, olive oil, primeurs and mineral ores. The visitors to Algiers during



[F. R. Ratcliff, photo.]

In the Kasbah.

the season 1909-1910 numbered 12,500 (French, 4,827; English and Americans, 2,815; Germans, 2,794).

The city is built on the slopes of a natural amphitheatre of hills belonging to the *Sahel*, the name given to a range of hills that run west along the coast for a considerable distance. Approached from the sea Algiers is seen as a confused mass of whitewashed cubes of masonry extending in irregular order up

the hill, the summit of which is crowned by the remains of an ancient Turkish citadel, once the palace and refuge of the Deys. Near the shore the city is hemmed in by lofty European houses and the arcades of the principal boulevard.

On the left are the verdure-clad slopes of Mustapha-Supérieur, its Moorish palaces, villas and hotels, ensconced in their spacious gardens, standing out sharp and distinct against the dark green background. This is the aristocratic suburb affected by the English residents and visitors. Farther to the left is the beginning of the great plain of the Mitidja, and the shore

of the bay, dotted with white villages, curves round to a point, Cape Matifou, where there is a lighthouse.



Native Music.

The buildings extend in an unbroken line to the right of the harbour entrance and the Admiralty, along a rock-bound coast.

These are the quarters of

St. Eugène and Deux Moulins. Beyond these is a prominence, Cape Caxine, with another lighthouse.

The steamers land passengers right on to the quays at the foot of the principal boulevard, and it is but a few steps to the Place du Gouvernement, which is the centre of the town. At one corner is the big white Mosque, from the minaret whereof the muezzin at certain hours calls upon the faithful to sing the praises of God—*La ilah illa Allah, Mohammed rasoul Allah*.

The Mosque on one side and the lofty palm trees round about give an Oriental *cachet* to the square, which is crowded with a motley throng of natives: the Arabs with stately stride and dignified bearing,

their swarthy faces expressing haughty indifference; the Kabyles, short and yeoman-like, with their whiter skin and more European features; Jews made up as Arabs; Nubians whose shiny blackness recalls a well-known advertisement; strange-looking women, all in white, their legs like two moving bolsters, and the "yashmak," or veil, deftly applied in such wise that the slit left for the eyes looks like a wide mouth. This concealment of the features stimulates curiosity to



Place du Gouvernement.

[Hyatt, photo.]

such an extent that, as a humorous traveller observed, even an archdeacon, not actually engaged in the exercise of his archidiaconal functions, would peep or try to peep, behind the veil. By way of variety there are the Chasseurs d'Afrique in light-blue uniforms, the Zouaves in their baggy red breeches, and above all, a host of agile, bright-eyed children in heterogeneous garments or approximately none at all. The spectacle is strangely interesting, very unlike that

to be seen in any European port, for here two civilizations come into actual physical contact. Through the square run the electric trams, in which veiled Moorish women touch elbows with Sisters of Mercy, and Arab chiefs sit cheek by jowl with British tourists armed with the inevitable Kodak.

It is but a step, we have only to cross the square,



A Street Corner in Algiers.

to enter the native city, which is built on the slope of a steep hill fronting the sea, the modern French town being laid out on the level ground between the sea and the hill. Streets and boulevards have been driven through the old city in the course of various "improvements," but enough still remains untouched to afford the visitor many an hour's enjoyment. The native

houses are mostly in whitewashed stucco, and when bathed in sunshine the aspect of the town is dazzling. As the sun goes down behind the hills to the west, the zigzag cliffs of white walls, latticed with faded shutters, stand out in a broken sky-line, while the surrounding country is still bathed in the rosy hues of the setting sun. To the east the snowy summits of the distant Atlas Mountains are passing through the whole gamut of gorgeous colours, merging into each other as in a rainbow. In such a symphony of colour Algiers really merits the description of a "Pearl set in Emeralds."

THE KASBAH.

The native city is known collectively as the "Kasbah," a name that, strictly speaking, applies to the old Turkish fortress of Baba Aroudj, the remains of which crown the hill behind it. One's first impression is that of a mass of crumbling masonry honeycombed into a network of minute passages and tunnels.

For sheer picturesqueness this part of Algiers would be hard to beat. There is an utter absence of design in the way the streets run : each one seems to be a law unto itself, and as often as not it turns out to be a blind alley. It is easy, in a sense, to find one's way about, because all streets that run down lead back to the central part of the town. Here and there we meet with artistic pretensions in the midst



A Glimpse of the Kasbah.

of this architectural incoherence: massive doors, deeply carved and studded with heavy nails; quaint



wrought-iron or bronze door-knockers with phallic reminiscences, inscribed with Arabic characters, and on most of them,

“The bloody hand that beckons on to fate.”

The doors are generally closed, but now and then one gets a glimpse of a tile-paved courtyard or a hall daubed in bright

colours. In some parts of the Kasbah the walls of the houses are painted blue, and this produces a very curious effect.

Now and then, from a tiny room opening on to the lane, one hears the sing-song of the native children at school, repeating verses from the Koran in monotonous cadence—the only education they appear to receive.

A little farther on is the native barber, shaving the crown of a fellow-Mahometan or practising dentistry by the aid of rusty prehistoric implements, this branch of his calling being duly set forth



[Geiser, photo.

Native Shoeblick.

being duly set forth

on a signboard representing a bouquet of flowers made up of decayed molars.

At every street corner is a *Café Maure*, gay with painted tiles, filled with natives lounging on wide benches covered with mats, and chatting in low tones as they sip tiny cups of coffee. The proprietor, *caouadji*, is busy at the fireplace manipulating numerous small brass coffee-jugs, which anon he distributes.



The public scribe, *taleb*, grave of countenance, disdainful of our inspection, sits, cross-legged, gazing into space. Up steps a veiled woman who whispers instructions, and with his antique reed—for he scorns the modern steel substitute—he traces hieroglyphs on a scrap of paper, which is folded, addressed, and deftly slipped into the bosom of the clandestine correspondent.

The winding, tortuous alleys, running off in every direction, are inaccessible to vehicular traffic, the gradient being such as to necessitate shelving steps in all that are not parallel with the main boulevard.



Distrustful !

The houses are lofty and often meet overhead, forming deep arches, sombre even at noon. In the twilight mysterious figures move with noiseless steps, clad in white flowing garments with variously twisted turbans. Even under the most favourable circumstances the sun only illuminates these labyrinthian passages for a few minutes daily—a circumstance of advantage no doubt in the heat of summer, but which

is not without serious drawbacks. In this rabbit warren, thronged by gossiping housewives out marketing, full of brilliant glimpses and vivid little scenes, huddles a dense population of the most miscellaneous description, odds and ends of international cross-breeding, of all garbs, types, languages and classes, thronging the exiguous thoroughfares, chattering in guttural tones as they go by, oblivious of the simplest laws of hygiene and personal cleanliness. Sanitary supervision does not go beyond the removal of offal by the aid of donkeys bearing twin panniers overflowing with refuse. These are to be seen in files wending their way down the ill-paved, reeking alleys, under the conduct of a sturdy bronzed-skin ruffian, whose only garment is a sack pulled over his head. In odd corners mangy cats are quarrelling over bits of garbage, evil-eyed dogs looking on to see fairplay.

This is the tourist's paradise, for nowhere within easy reach of Europe can be seen such a curious, fantastic throng, so heterogeneous, so picturesque in their rags, so different from the slums of other large towns. From the deep holes, which are the native shops, piles of merchandize obtrude their blots of purple or crimson in the shady way, the owners contemplating the passers-by with an air of serious indifference. Thickly veiled women haggle about prices in shrill tones, and grimy men raise their voices in angry dispute, or what sounds like it.

After nightfall soldiers and sailors on leave, of all nationalities, import a questionable gaiety, rushing tumultuously up and down the cobble steps with rollicking exuberance of spirits. The measured tread of patrols warns the disorderly that heavy-handed repression is at hand, and brawlers lower their voices.

The French part of the city is well kept and the streets are reasonably clean. They are lined by ever-

green trees, more particularly the pepper, rubber, and locust trees, and well-appointed electric tramcars convey passengers from the central "Place" to the furthest limit of Mustapha-Supérieur, the Boulevard Bru, and El Biar, passing along winding roads which, at every turn, command panoramas of bewitching beauty, comprising the harbour, the flanks of the Mustapha Hills, the bay, Cape Matifou, and, shutting in the horizon, the lofty range of the Atlas Mountains.

MUSTAPHA-SUPÉRIEUR.

The absence of adequate hotel accommodation, which used to be harped upon by almost every writer on Algiers, no longer militates against the unquestionable advantages of residence in Mustapha - Supérieur. There are now several first-class hotels constructed on European models, the sanitary arrangements whereof have been carried out more or less in accordance with the principles of hygiene as understood and applied in England. From the point of view of comfort and convenience they leave little to be desired. There are, in addition, several hotels of second rank, and numerous "pensions" and boarding-houses. There is consequently ample accommodation for every class of traveller.



What's your Name ?

Those who propose to pass the winter in Mustapha-Supérieur have the choice between hotel life and residence in one or other of the villas which are to be seen half buried in the luxuriant foliage of the spacious gardens. Some of them are genuine old Moorish houses, but the majority are mere imitations, modern, it is true, but none the worse for having been built in a sanitary age. Certainly it is by far the more comfortable and agreeable plan to rent a



A Kasbah Lane.

villa, furnished or unfurnished, and to live, so to speak, "at home"; but this is only practicable for families who can bring some of their own servants and who are prepared to live on a fairly large scale. Good cooks can be found on the spot, and there are several livery stables where horses and carriages can be hired by the day, month, or season at a reasonable price.

The selection of a villa is a matter calling for special care, because it is of the greatest importance to secure a maximum allowance of sunshine. Villas fulfilling this desideratum are not always easy to find, but on no account should this point be overlooked. In choosing a villa it is advisable to make a visit or two before deciding. A trustworthy opinion can often be formed with regard to the freedom from dampness by inspection of the parqueted floor, especially in the corners and near the walls, as well as in cupboards and recesses. Special attention should be paid to situation, making sure that they do not face north and

are not masked by high walls, trees, rocks, or banks of earth. One visit should be made at 9 a.m., and a second at 3 p.m., in order to see exactly what amount of direct sunlight goes with the property. Other things being equal, it is preferable not to choose a site too far removed from sources of supply, for it is awkward to have to send several miles for an additional couple of chops or a bottle of medicine. Remoteness, moreover, has the drawback that means of locomotion are scarce at night, though, if a carriage be kept, this may not be a matter of moment. Having decided upon a suitable villa, it is essential to make sure that the agreement specifies in unambiguous terms the amount of the rent, the duration of the tenancy, and whether or not the tenant is entitled to the garden produce ;



A Nubian Mother.

lastly, the agreement must be properly stamped.

It is hardly necessary to add that the drainage should be inquired into, though this is a matter that had better be referred to an expert acting on the instructions of a medical man of the locality who is familiar with the local circumstances.

The rent of furnished villas varies from £200 to £500 a year, according to their size. Hotel life is cheap, the "pension" costing from 8 or 12 francs to 20 francs a day. Algiers is within easy reach of Marseilles, the passage at present taking some twenty

hours by the Transatlantique Line; and further improvements are promised for the near future, bringing Algiers within forty-seven hours of London. Those to whom a few more hours' sea voyage is a matter



Native Musicians.

of indifference may prefer to come by one of the other lines, details of which will be found in the chapter devoted to means of transport.

The roads are excellent and horses are cheap, so that there is every facility for outdoor exercise, riding,

driving, or walking; while the city, some three miles distant, is rendered accessible by the electric tramway which runs from the Place du Gouvernement to the Boulevard Bru and the Colonne Voirol, the last named being the highest point in Mustapha-Supérieur. During the last two or three years the motor-car has come greatly to the front; but, agreeable though this form of locomotion may be to car-owners, its advent is by no means an unmixed



advantage in a land where dust is far more trying than rain. We are promised a mitigation of the nuisance in future by the periodical application of dust-laying solutions. There are plenty of shady lanes where pedestrians can take exercise within full view of the glorious panorama extending from the verdure-clad slopes of the Mustapha Hills to the distant Atlas Mountains, and, between the two, the harbour with its shipping and the

azure Mediterranean, sparkling in the sun, which—

“Lights the salt sea up with such a smile
As comes upon the features of a child
When in his dreams he sees a butterfly.”

THE CLIMATE.

Algiers enjoys a climate differing in many important respects from that of other parts of Algeria, a superiority which it owes to its geographical position on the southern limit of the præ-tropical zone and to the



combined factors of seaside and moderate altitude. The hills that extend their protecting arms round Algiers and Mustapha-Supérieur are not of any great height, the summit of the Bouzareah, the highest among them, only rising some 1,300 feet above sea-level. They, however, serve to ward off winds from the north and west, and these are the most prevalent in winter, the season which alone interests travellers in search of health. This special distribution of sea



A Mendicant's Salute.

and mountain, and its situation in the præ-tropical zone, secure for Algiers a climate which presents many points of resemblance with that of Central Spain. This analogy is seen, too, in the nature of the soil and in the flora and fauna, so much so that in the time of Constantine a traveller described Algeria as *Hispania transfretana*.

The winter temperature is comparatively high, and is remarkably free from pronounced oscillations. The season may be said to begin about the middle of October, and during this and the following month the weather is such as would do honour to an ideal English summer, though the monotony may be relieved now and again by a few hours' heavy rain. From December to March what may be described as fine autumn weather is the rule, while April and May are summer months. The heat does not become excessive until July, but most of the Mustapha hotels close in May.

Although winter is the rainy season, and although more rain falls in Algiers than, for example, in Paris, the rainy days are fewer in number—100 *per annum* as against 147 in Paris. The cloud that in London takes

a week to shed its surplus moisture gets rid of it in Algiers in an hour. One has scarcely time to open an umbrella before the cloud-laden sky clears and the sun resumes its sway. The intrusion of a wave of cold air sometimes determines a hailstorm. Suddenly and unexpectedly the sky becomes overcast, there is a rushing sound, and the streets become covered with hailstones ; but soon no trace remains, to the manifest regret of the youngsters, who but rarely get a chance of seeing or handling ice and snow.



Going to Market.

Even on rainy days it is exceptional for the sun not to show its face for an hour or two, and when the rain ceases the sky at once resumes its azure hue, the roads dry up promptly, and we have the Algerian climate at its best. When it does rain it usually comes down heavily, but the spells of rain are generally of short duration, and two-thirds of it fall after sunset. The drizzling Scotch mist, so common in Northern Europe, is here practically unknown ; moreover, the soil is so

friable and absorbent, and the land lies at such an angle, that the water rapidly runs off or sinks in, and the soil is never sodden. The most enjoyable winters are those in which the rain falls for short periods at intervals, dust, even in winter, being far more troublesome than rain. December has the reputation of being the wettest month, but in this respect it is usually the unexpected that happens. The average rainfall in Algiers is between 29 and 30 inches.



Tomb of Sidi Abd-er-Rahman.

No one who passes a season in Algiers will be disappointed with the climate, but a visitor who comes for two or three weeks may possibly fall upon a rainy period, especially between the middle of December and the early part of February.

The extreme limits of temperature during the winter season in Algiers, as established by ten years' meteorological observations, are 48° and 67° F. These figures, however, are of less importance from a climatic point of view than the daily and monthly averages.

Maxima			Minima		
November	...	68·2° F.	November	...	54·8° F.
December	...	61°	December	...	49·1°
January	...	61°	January	...	49·1°
February	...	61·6°	February	...	49°
March	...	67·8°	March	...	57·7°
April	...	68·4°	April	...	63·9°

Ice and snow are almost unknown, *the thermometer having fallen to freezing point in only two seasons in the course of the last half-century.* It follows that the winter climate of Algiers is remarkably mild and fairly constant, the maximum variation of temperature within the twenty-four hours not exceeding from 10° to 15°. The average temperature is several degrees higher than any station on the Riviera, and, as is shown by the accompanying chart, there is less difference between the climates of Paris and Nice, for example, than between those of Nice and Algiers.



Ratcliff, photo.
Ouled Nails.

During the winter 1903-1904, which was the most inclement for forty years, the official records show that the average temperature at Algiers during the months of December and January was 58·4° F. maximum and 49° F. minimum, as compared with that of Nice for the corresponding period at 51·9° F. maximum and 39·2° F. minimum. At Paris during the same period the average was 41·4° F. and 24·8° F. It will be seen that the maximum of Algiers exceeded that of Paris by 17° F., and of Nice by 6·5° F.

The accompanying temperature charts will enable the reader to appreciate the contrast at a glance.

The quality of the climate is greatly influenced by the preponderance of certain winds, so that this factor calls for special consideration. The most prevalent wind is unquestionably that from the north-west,



A Native Girl.

then come the north-east, the west, the north, and the south - west. East, south-east, and south winds are comparatively infrequent. The last-named is the famous sirocco, which blows on an average some thirty-five times during the year, of which twenty-two occur during the winter, when it is rather agreeable than otherwise, except that it is usually followed by rain.

West winds are chilly and often wet, but, as has been pointed out, the screen of hills at the back of Algiers protects in a certain measure against gales from the north and west. During the summer, on the other hand, the prevailing wind is from the east, bringing a welcome relief to the torrid heat of that season.

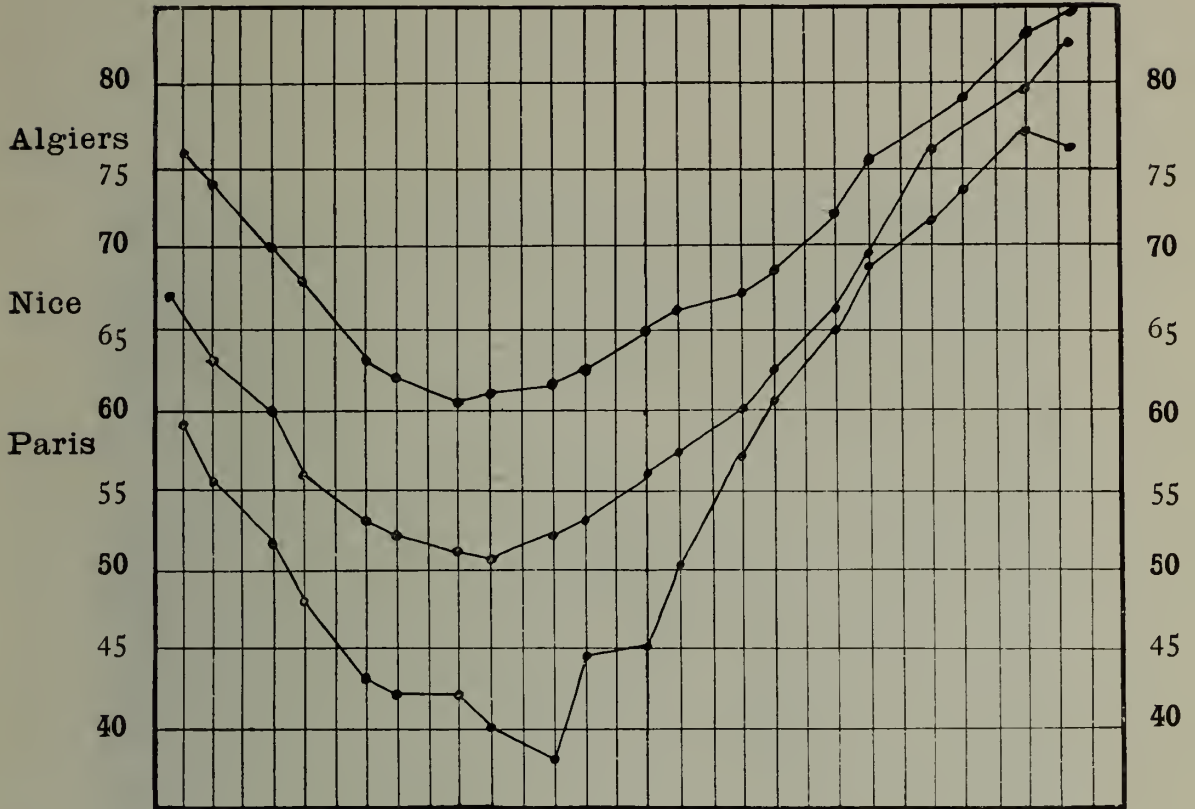
ATMOSPHERIC HUMIDITY.

The average hygrometric reading is about 70 per cent. It attains its maximum in April, and reaches its lowest ebb in September. It is noteworthy, however, that the sensation of moisture by no means

MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM CHARTS.

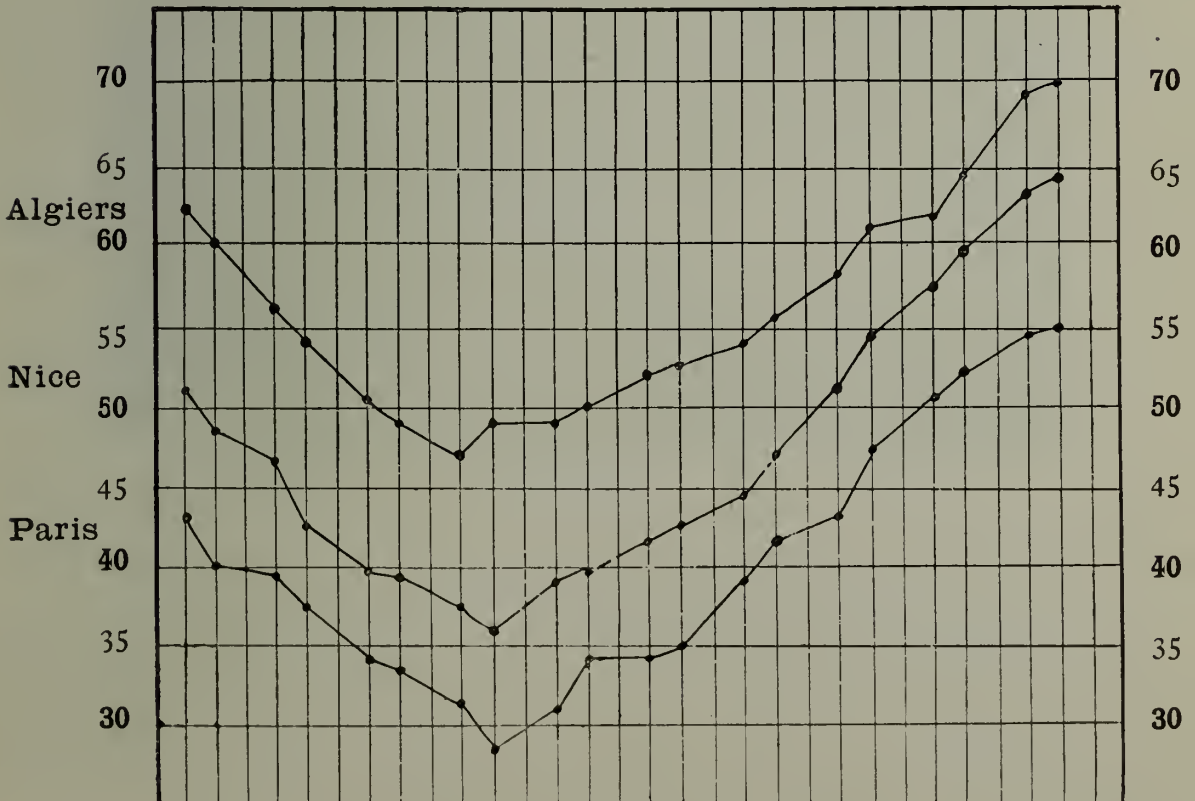
Mean of Ten Years' Observations (Maxima).

Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. March April May June July



Mean of Ten Years' Observations (Minima).

Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. March April May June July



invariably corresponds with the hygrometric reading, and it is more than likely that the readings of Algiers-Mustapha are somewhat in excess of the official records, since these are taken on the heights, while the city



A Girl of Southern Algeria.

[Geiser, photo.]

proper is better protected against the prevailing winds. Be this as it may, the climate of Algiers cannot be described as damp; indeed, even on rainy days, wet objects, not actually exposed to the rain, dry readily

enough. Moreover, what may be termed the physiological standard of humidity lies between 70 and 80 per cent., so that the average is well within the limits of health.

The days are rather shorter in the summer and longer in the winter than in Central Europe. In December, for instance, it is necessary to light up soon after 3 p.m. in Paris, whereas in Algiers it is not required until 4.30 or 5 p.m. The night light is still burning in London and St. Petersburg at an hour when the Algerians are already basking in the morning sun.



South-bound Diligence.

[*Dr. Nissen, photo*

THE THERAPEUTICAL ASPECT.

The climate of Algiers is characterized by mildness, comparative uniformity of temperature, and by a brightness peculiarly its own, consequently it is not only possible, but is positively agreeable, to pass many hours daily in the open air and to leave the windows wide open at night. Without being in any sense relaxing, the climate increases, in most persons, the

capacity for sleep ; in other words, it is reposeful, and the average of daily sunshine throughout the winter is high. The climate of Algiers, wrote the late Dr. Guéneau de Mussy, is warmer and more tonic than that of Pau or Pisa, and less exciting than that of Nice or Cannes—that is to say, the climate of Algiers is intermediate between a dry exciting climate and a damp one ; in a word, it is neither too moist nor too dry.



Latest Fashions.

As a measure of precaution it is well to avoid drinking the town water unless previously boiled and filtered, especially as it is extremely hard. On the whole it is preferable to make use of one or other of the natural mineral waters—Aix (Deux Reines), St. Galmier, Perrier, Evian, &c.—which are free from any probability of contamination.

Visitors must also be cautioned against drinking unboiled milk, because it is manipulated by natives for whom the word “cleanliness” has no very precise significance. It may be said indeed that unboiled milk is more dangerous to drink than unboiled water—because it may consist in part of goat’s milk,

which, on the Mediterranean coast, is often contaminated with the germ of Malta fever.

With regard to clothing, visitors will do well to provide themselves with such as would be suitable for early spring in England ; that is to say, woollen underclothing, preferably of an open texture, so as to allow of free perspiration without discomfort. It is imprudent to remain out of doors after four o'clock during winter, unless provided with a warm cape or overcoat, to be donned as occasion may require.

For the mere *liverneur* in search of a comfortable spot in which to spend the inclement season, Mustapha-Supérieur presents many noteworthy advantages. Some idea of what the weather is like may be gathered from the following quotations.



A Snake Charmer.

Writing in 1881 ("The New Playground, or Wanderings in Algeria"), Mr. Alexander A. Knox says: "We have had a late season, wetter and colder than is usual ; but, speaking in a general way, I should say that few indeed have been the days when we have not spent five or six hours daily in the open air. We have almost invariably kept our windows open during the day when reading or writing at home. We have always had upon the table great bouquets of roses, geraniums, heliotrope, mignonette, jasmine, stocks and wallflowers from the garden, and of course grown in the open air. A good deal of rain has fallen, but not so much as to interfere with our movements. We

have not seen snow save on the tops of the distant hills. We have had one terrible day of dust storm, but only one." He terminates his description with the remark that Algiers would always remain fixed in his memory as "the luminous town."

After such a record of life in the open air it is not surprising to be told that he had not taken cold since he was in Algiers, and, with the exception of half-a-dozen days when it was raining or the air was



"What's up?"

impregnated with moisture, he had spent at least four or five hours of every day walking or driving in an open carriage. That, he observes, is something to be grateful for. "Five or six hours of open air and sunshine daily—Londoners, think of that—from November to April."

Things have materially changed for the better since Mr. R. H. Otter gave his impressions of Algiers ("Winters Abroad," 1882). At that time there appears to have been practically only one hotel at Mustapha-Supérieur, and that one at monopoly prices. The

author approaches the subject in the spirit of the candid friend ; yet, after a winter spent amid the suave beauties of Mustapha, he says : “ During the whole time we were there, there were very few days when we could not get a walk during some part of them with moderate comfort. . . . The winter was a very severe one in the south of Europe, and we heard of ice and snow all along the Riviera we had, however, no ice or snow in Algiers. On fine days the sky was nearly cloudless, and the atmosphere



Mixed Types.

clear and bright, and there was no relaxing feeling in the air. We had one or two slight touches of sirocco during the two months, but nothing to make much complaint of. We began to feel that we had found an earthly paradise for persons with affections of the lungs.” He notes particularly that “ there were few

thoroughly wet days,” adding that “ some idea may be formed of the mildness of the climate when I mention that there were beautiful flowers to be bought in the market all through the winter, and the bouquets which were prepared for New Year’s gifts were as beautiful as could be bought in Covent Garden out of the conservatories of England. We had plenty of the common kinds of roses in the hotel garden all the winter, and the more delicate kinds were beginning to flower freely before we left (in January), whilst the orange trees were covered with bloom. We had green peas in profusion in January, and other vegetables were good and plentiful throughout the winter.”

My object, however, is rather to dwell upon the advantages which this suave climate offers to those whose standard of vitality is below the normal, to the invalid in whom inherited weakness or chronic disease has sapped the foundations of health. For these Algiers affords a delightful refuge, where they may "life's short lease on easier terms renew."

Pulmonary Affections.—Foremost among the affections in which the invalid is likely to derive benefit from a winter in Algiers are incipient phthisis and chronic diseases of the respiratory tract, such as chronic bronchitis with emphysema, bronchiectasis, bronchial catarrh, and asthma.



The Village Well.

The favourable influence of the climate of Algiers in pulmonary affections is not a recent discovery. From the remotest antiquity, physicians, Celsus among others, were in the habit of sending their consumptive patients to certain parts of North Africa, so it is evident that the climatic treatment is not a modern innovation. Transmitted from century to century, the treatment has withstood the test of experience, and has been greatly developed in our own time. Nevertheless, although climate *per se* may help to explain the very low death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis in Algiers, the term must be taken in a wider sense than is ex-

pressed in barometric and hygrometric readings and temperature curves. Other places, equally favoured in the matter of temperature, such as Malta, are hotbeds of phthisis, while some, in spite of a damp and generally unhealthy climate, are almost free from the disease. It may be pointed out, too, that there is



[Hyam, photo.]

The Sirocco is blowing.¹

more pulmonary tuberculosis in Gibraltar and Marseilles, in proportion to the population, than in Paris and London, and certain towns on the Baltic coast can boast as few deaths from pulmonary disease as the popular resorts on the northern shore of the Mediterranean. The belief in the curative properties

¹ Kinglake, in his delightful little narrative of travels in 1834, "Eothen," gives a vivid description of the wind from the desert. "The wind was hot to the touch as though it came from a furnace. It blew strongly, yet with such perfect steadiness that the trees, bending under its force, remained fixed in the same curves without perceptibly waving."

of the climate has been confirmed by statistics dating from the French occupation ; indeed, the army surgeons were among the first to call attention to the fact.

Dr. Feuillet ("Note sur la Phtisie Pulmonaire," 1856), speaking with an experience of twelve years in places as far apart as Oran and Biskra, states that not only is phthisis rare in Algeria, but that imported cases among the soldiers rapidly improved. Dr. Feuillet had a pet theory of his own that malarial fever was

antagonistic to consumption.



Not much doing.

In this, however, he must have been mistaken, for malaria has now almost disappeared from the neighbourhood of Algiers, yet recent statistics display the same comparative infrequency of phthisis. He quotes Andral's advice to his "chest patients," to avoid Marseilles, all the northern coast of the Mediter-

ranean, Pau and Bayonne.

Dr. Dru, of the Civil Hospital, also expressed the opinion that the climate of Algiers is refractory to the development of tubercle. He observes that "Europeans predisposed to, or suffering from phthisis, stand the better chance of escaping or recovering from the disease the younger the age at which they come to Algiers. Phthisical patients of the first or second degree should quit Europe before the onset of cold weather, arriving at Algiers at the end of the hot season—that is to say, at the beginning of October. In this way they will be placed in the best possible conditions to derive benefit from the salutary influence of the climate, such influence being most pronounced during the first winter thus spent. The prophylactic,

palliative, and curative influence of the climate persists for some years, but in lessening degree."

Sir Hermann Weber ("Climatotherapy and Balneotherapy," third edition, 1907) observes that "many cases of emphysema, irritable cough, and the lingering effects of pleurisy and pneumonia, derive benefit from



Door of Mosque.

[F. R. Ratcliff, photo.]

a winter season in Algiers. Early chronic cases of phthisis may sometimes be sent thither when for any reason high altitudes are not well borne, and Egypt and the Riviera are too dry. Aged persons and delicate people, for whom an interesting, warm, sunny winter resort is all that is needed, might spend the whole or part of the season at Mustapha just as well as in Egypt or the Riviera."

The mildness of the air and the absence of sudden changes of temperature render the climate of Algiers

peculiarly efficacious in overcoming any tendency to lung disease in persons whose general health inspires apprehension, or who have inherited a predisposition to pulmonary troubles. Under the influence of the sunlight and pure air the general health usually improves, and, *pari passu*, the disquieting manifestations subside. The object in view is to secure for the



subjects of "weak chest" a continuation of the climate in which the summer has been spent—in fact, a second summer, so that the patient may be enabled to live with open windows, without being exposed to any serious risk of taking cold. This is simply the "open-air" treatment, but the special advantage of the

Algerian winter is that it allows the treatment to be undertaken without the acute discomfort inseparable from an unlimited supply of fresh air in places north of the Mediterranean.

It is worthy of note that the European population of Algiers comprises a large proportion of persons who were sent there when young on account of incipient pulmonary disease. Having regained their health, they have settled down here permanently, living testimonials to the curative action of the climate in cases not too far advanced to permit of complete recovery. One of the most distinguished physicians in the city,



Garden at Civil Hospital.

recently deceased at an advanced age, told me that when a youth he developed tuberculous laryngitis, an affection usually regarded as incurable, but he was sent to Algiers and the lesions gradually and permanently healed. In the course of his long experience he remarks that, of the numerous cases of pulmonary tuberculosis which have come under his observation during this period, very few failed to derive immediate benefit from the change of environment. It is unnecessary to insist on the fact that when the pulmonary



A Corner in the Kasbah.

lesions have advanced beyond a certain stage, when the lung tissues have actually begun to break down and the evening temperature is raised, the climate *per se* can do little to arrest the further progress of the disease; indeed, it appears to progress more rapidly here than it

might have done at home. This is a question to be decided by the family physician, who alone is in a position to estimate the patient's chance of amelioration. The fact that a patient has suffered from hæmoptysis is not in itself a contra-indication to the climatic treatment.¹

Asthma.—Sufferers from asthma, as we know, do not all derive benefit from pure country air. Some

¹ According to the official returns, the proportion of deaths due to pulmonary phthisis among the European population of Algiers, during a period extending over several years, is 1 in 40, while the proportion during the same period in London was 1 in 5.5, and in Paris 1 in 5. This is the more noteworthy seeing that the European population of Algiers includes large numbers of persons who have come to live there because they were suffering from incipient tuberculosis, or whose parents came for similar reasons.

there are who suffer least in the smoke-laden atmosphere of large towns; nevertheless, in the majority, the hypersensitive bronchial mucosa resents the intrusion of smoke and dust, and this sensitiveness is exaggerated when moisture is associated with a low temperature. Asthmatics of the second category have everything to gain by taking up their residence in Algiers during the winter months. One of the principal factors in determining the onset of an attack of asthma



In an Oasis.

is sudden change of temperature, and in Algiers this is not to be apprehended. Such patients do remarkably well on the hills of Mustapha-Supérieur, and numerous cases have come under my observation in which residence

in Algiers has been followed by immediate improvement, and ultimate freedom from the paroxysmal dyspnoea.

In *Chronic Bronchitis* and *Emphysema* it is obvious that equality of temperature, comparative warmth, and a stimulating environment are conditions eminently favourable to the restoration of a standard of health and comfort unattainable under less auspicious circumstances. The prevention of an acute attack of bronchitis, which is so apt to graft itself upon the chronic disease, is mainly a question of suitable clothing and diet, but such patients require to be particularly careful not to rest in the shade when over-heated,

and to make a point of being indoors an hour before sunset.

Heart Disease.—The stimulating effect of the warm, equable climate on hæmatisation is favourable to the maintenance of a fair standard of health in the subjects of chronic heart disease, especially valvular affections with circulatory disturbance. The same remark applies to chronic impairment of the circulation from any cause, since the sufferer has much to gain from a prolonged sojourn under climatic conditions that maintain the skin in a state of functional activity, and protect the damaged organism against the disturbances inseparable from brusque changes of temperature and atmospheric moisture.



Kidney Disease.—The qualities of climate which render Algiers a suitable residence for cardiac patients are, for similar reasons, beneficial in the sub-acute and chronic forms of

Bright's disease. Then, too, the plentiful supply of fresh vegetables the winter through provides the elements for a suitable diet. Sufferers from chronic nephritis, says Dr. Brouardel, must avoid passing the winter and early spring in Paris (and *a fortiori* in London), choosing in preference a climate with a warmer and more equable temperature, otherwise the inclement season must be passed indoors with as free ventilation as possible. In Algiers this irksome confinement to the house is quite unnecessary, and, with proper precautions, most of the daytime may be passed with safety and advantage in the open air.

Arterio-sclerosis.—Life in the open air is the regimen *par excellence* for sufferers from cardio-vascular lesions

not so far advanced as to render it inapplicable. High altitudes are undesirable ; in fact, at 1,000 feet and upwards, there is always the risk of complications, especially angina pectoris : with suitable dietetic restrictions the restful indolence of life at Algiers exerts a marked influence in determining a reduction of pressure in high-tension cases. The ideal climate, says Dr. Brouardel, is a mild, temperate one, not too moist, in a region sheltered from high winds—a fairly



Arabs from the Highlands.

[Geiser, photo.]

accurate description of the climate of Algiers. The altitude of Mustapha - Supérieur nowhere exceeds 400 feet.

Rheumatism. — Articular rheumatism — rheumatic fever—is essentially a disease of cold, damp climates, and the rheumatic subject who takes up his residence in Algiers soon experiences the benefit of the change of climate ; the attacks of joint pain and inflammation become less frequent, and ultimately cease to recur. A well-marked case of acute rheumatism is rarely seen in medical practice in Algeria except in Europeans who have not become acclimatized.

The chronic forms of rheumatism are also amenable to this curative influence, especially if preceded by a course of treatment at Aix-les-Bains or Hammam-R'irha.



A facsimile.

Gout. — It is a matter of common observation that gout is comparatively rare in hot climates, and when it does occur the attacks are less frequent and less obstinate, owing, no doubt, to the greater functional activity of the skin and plenty of exercise in the open air.

Constitutional Debility. — Algiers is a peculiarly suitable residence during the winter for debile, strumous, rachitic and anæmic children

whose health inspires apprehension. Under the influence of the "sun-baths" and pure air, the appetite returns, nutrition is improved, and the organism reacts less readily to morbid influences. The neurasthenic, the convalescent, and those whose nervous system has suffered from the wear and tear of a busy life, gain alike in health and stamina from the mild temperature and genial brightness of the surroundings. The im-

mediate influence of sunlight is here a factor not to be ignored. It acts as a direct stimulant and tonic, accelerating the nutritive exchanges and raising the tone of both mind and body.

PASTIMES AND AMUSEMENTS.

One is often asked what there is by way of amusement for visitors ; is there much sport, for instance ? As a matter of fact, there is no shooting worth speaking of within many miles of Algiers. Further afield are to be found partridge, woodcock, quail, snipe, hares, and sundry birds of passage : jackals are plentiful and panthers are occasionally met with in the forests near Hammam-R'Irha, and may be shot at sight. Such sport is splendid exercise, but cannot be relied upon to replenish the larder.

There is a golf club, with links to match, at Birmandreis, a few minutes' walk from the principal hotels, also a tennis club, and most of the hotels have tennis courts. The country abounds in beautiful and varied rides, drives, and walks, with perfect roads for motoring in every direction ; there are orchestras in some of the hotels where periodical concerts are given, and, once a week during the season, a dance.

There is the Municipal Theatre "down town," also the Casino, a music-hall of the usual kind, the Kursaal, and a Skating Rink. Occasionally there are "Spanish" bull fights.

THE JARDIN D'ESSAI (BOTANICAL GARDENS).

This delightful garden, covering some 500 acres, was commenced by the Government in 1832 for the purpose of making experiments in the acclimatization of trees, &c. For many years past it has been leased to a commercial company whose interest in the

æsthetic aspect is of the smallest, but even under this unenlightened administration it has remained a popular resort.

There are several stately avenues of exotic trees—rubber, yucca, palm, bamboo, dragon tree, &c., and in it are to be seen numerous specimens of rare trees

and flowers from all parts of the world — in fact, nowhere else is to be seen such a complete and valuable collection.

The company's lease having lapsed the garden will now revert to the town, so that it may be hoped steps will be taken to preserve and embellish this magnificent property in the in-



A White Friar.

terests of the teeming population.

The garden can be reached by tram from the Place du Gouvernement, and the cars pass by the Champs de Manœuvres, to which access can be gained on foot by any of the lanes running from Mustapha-Supérieur towards the sea. Another way to get there is to take the tram to the end of the Boulevard Bru, and then walk on through the woods (bearing to the left), along a path which leads to the garden gates.

Algiers is the happy hunting ground of the amateur photographer. The Kasbah affords an inexhaustible field of operations with its teeming, picturesque, ragged population and its impish children.

The *Comité d'Hivernage*, founded with the praiseworthy object of promoting the interests of visitors and residents, organizes frequent motor-car and other excursions during the season, a programme of which can be obtained on application to the Secretary, 1, Rue Combe. Another active organization, the *Comité des Fêtes*, provides periodical fêtes, comprising Arab fantasias, Moorish and Spanish galas, vegliones, carnival festivities, races, "batailles de fleurs," and the like, with, now and then, classical concerts at the Hôtel de Ville.

The Governor-General's ball, which usually takes place about the middle of March, is the event of the season. Visitors who are personally known to their Consuls can obtain invitations, and the opportunity is one to be



A Native Musician.

taken advantage of, for the scene is novel and picturesque. The Sheikhs and Aghas, gorgeously attired and bedizened with medals and decorations, are there in large numbers, flanked by the Caids in their red burnouses. The remainder of the company comprise all the official, civil and military society of Algiers.

There are various native fêtes and religious celebrations, quaint and curious, but not pleasant to witness, details of which will be found in the guide-books.

There is no casino, properly so called, at Mustapha, and opinions are greatly divided whether or not such an institution would be a desirable addition to the

preceding list of distractions. Apart from the tourist who passes a few days in Algiers just to see the sights, and in this he will not be disappointed, many come for health reasons. The latter seek a genial climate, plenty of sunshine, gentle exercise and repose amid bright surroundings, and this they obtain in Mustapha-Supérieur ; but the advantages of such a climate are not limited to the invalid ; indeed, the possession of health cannot but enhance the enjoyment of surroundings to which none can be indifferent.

Pendant que de froides haleines
 Glacent votre ciel obscurci,
 Pendant qu'il neige dans vos plaines
 Sur nos coteaux il neige aussi.

Il neige au pied de la colline,
 Il neige au détour du sentier,
 Il neige des fleurs d'aubépine,
 Il neige des fleurs d'égantier.

Marie Lefebvre.



Crossing the Oued.

HAMMAM-R'IRHA.



The Hotel and Bathing Establishment.

THE Grand Hotel and Thermal Establishment of Hammam-R'irha (*Aquæ Calidæ* of the Romans) is situated on the slopes of the Atlas Mountains, about seventy miles from Algiers, at an elevation of about 1,600 feet above sea-level. It dates from 1880, having been built by M. Arlès-Dufour on the site of the Roman baths, substantial traces whereof abound on every hand. It is now lighted throughout by electricity and is fitted with central heating apparatus. The baths occupy the basement of the Grand Hotel, and are fitted with appliances and conveniences for hydro-pathic treatment on the model of the best establishments of Europe, including an electric lift for the convenience of patients. There are two large swimming baths 50 yards square, hot and cold douches,

sprays, shower baths, and various apparatus for local hydrotherapy. The bathrooms are spacious and well ventilated, and the supply of hot water is practically unlimited.

The hotel and bathing establishment are built on the southern aspect of the mountain, and command a beautiful and extensive view of the valley below, with, on the west, the towering summit of the Zakkar (5,200 feet). To the east the valley expands into a well-cultivated basin, beyond which the peaks of Ben Chicao and Berouaghia close in the horizon, while to the north-west is a pine forest some 1,800



The Hotel and Gardens.

acres in extent. The extensive grounds belonging to the hotel, charmingly laid out and carefully maintained, derive freshness and fragrance from the pine-woods of the hills and the flowers of the garden. Orange and lemon trees abound and flower early in the year, while roses, myrtles, violets, giant geraniums and strelitzias bloom throughout the season, fading only in the height of summer, when the full blaze of the African sun deprives them of the necessary moisture.

Of the mineral springs, one is comparatively cold. The water is clear and pleasant to drink, and, as it contains an appreciable quantity of oxide of iron held in solution by free carbonic acid, it constitutes a sparkling tonic table water suitable for general use.

The other spring issues at a temperature of between 110° and 115° F., arriving in the baths, in one at 95° F., and in the other at about 110° F. The waters belong to the thermal saline class and are beneficial in chronic forms of rheumatism and gout, rheumatic



[Hyam, photo.]

A Panther Hunt.

arthritis, septic rheumatism and other infective articular affections, as well as in restoring mobility to injured joints. The hydropathic treatment, together with the mountain air and stimulating environment, exert a most salutary influence in all strumous conditions.

The equality of climate due to the relative proximity of the sea and the consequent freedom from brusque changes of temperature, the protection afforded by the mountain ranges against winds from the north and west, and the therapeutical properties of the waters,

constitute an *ensemble* of health-giving qualities unsurpassed elsewhere.

The curative effects of the waters in gout, rheumatism, hepatic and renal disease are no doubt due in part to the thermality of the waters, but some share in the results is unquestionably due to the saline contents, and for this reason it is desirable to drink the water in order to reinforce the action of the baths.

The beneficial results obtained in the treatment of other morbid states—diseases of the nervous system



The Gardens.

and skin, vesical catarrh, chronic uterine affections, inveterate neuralgia, and certain forms of paralysis, &c.—are in great degree obtained by therapeutical measures familiar to physicians at other spas, but the special qualities of the climate confer on these measures an efficacy and a promptness of action not to be obtained under less favourable conditions of environment.

The alterative and derivative action of the thermal water is reinforced and enhanced by that of the chalybeate water taken with meals or as directed. The course of treatment has been skilfully organized so as to obtain the maximum curative effect from each of

the various factors that contribute to make Hammam-R'Irha the "Queen of Thermal Stations."

One of the earliest effects of residence at Hammam-R'Irha is an increase in the number of red corpuscles in the blood. This effect, of course, is not peculiar to Hammam-R'Irha, since it is common to most resorts situated at a certain altitude. Here, however, the vivifying influence of the radiant sun, and the abundance of pure, invigorating air, almost at once bring about a striking change in the appearance of those whose blood



View from the Hotel.

has become impoverished by unhygienic habits of life or by chronic disease.

There are plenty of excursions to be had in the neighbourhood, either driving or riding. From time to time caravans are organized for picnics on the hills, where the visitors are hospitably received by one or other of the Sheikhs or Caids. These excursions are always greatly appreciated, less perhaps by reason of the novelty of the Arab *cuisine*, which ill accords with English stomachs, than on account of the picturesque-ness of the surroundings. A twenty-mile amble through the forest brings us to a clearing where we are received by our Arab host, draped in his ample burnous, the gaudily embroidered banner of Islam in his hand, the men of his tribe squatting round in their

fleecy garments. With a dignity rarely equalled by a mere European he welcomes his guests, who are invited to seat themselves on cushions around the linen-bedecked area of ground, a position that is comfortable enough for the first five minutes, but speedily becomes irksome.

The robust can indulge in mountain climbing and shooting, partridges and quails abounding; and the more adventurous, by going further afield, can try their skill on the jackal and even the panther.

The establishment is provided with an excellent orchestra, so there is no lack of music, and in the evening concerts are given in the luxuriously furnished salon, in which visitors with vocal propensities often take part.

The station for Hammam R'Irha is Bou Medfa, about three hours' railway journey from Algiers. Thence visitors are conveyed in the hotel omnibus up a picturesque mountain road to the establishment, the drive taking about an hour.

As the accommodation is limited to some 120 beds, intending visitors are recommended to engage rooms beforehand by telephone or letter addressed to the manager.



BLIDA-LES-GLACIÈRES.



The Hotel.

A FAVOURITE excursion is the ascent to *Les Glacières*, a spot some 4,700 feet above sea-level, at a distance of four miles from Blida—a station on the Oran line of railway, thirty miles west of Algiers. There, on the fringe of an immense cedar forest that embalms the mountain air, an hotel has been erected which, by



On Mule-back to the Glacières.

reason of its altitude and surroundings, offer special advantages as a residence for persons suffering from incipient phthisis or general debility. It is reached on mule-back from Blida, and commands many admirable panoramas over the great plain of the Mitidja, the bay of Algiers, and the mountains of Kabylia. There are plenty of delightful promenades in the neighbourhood.

The accommodation comprises fifteen rooms, and the fare is distinctly good. The "pension" terms are from seven francs per day. The water supply is excellent, coming as it does from springs higher up the mountain, and milk can be had as required.

On account of its isolation, it is only suitable for those who do not require medical attention, and it is only accessible between March and October, the weather from November to the end of February being often extremely cold.



Peacemakers.



Prætorium of Third Augustan Legion, Lambessa. [*Hyam, photo.*]



The Negro Village, Biskra.

ON THE ROAD TO BISKRA.

CONSTANTINE—HAMMAM MESKOUTINE—TIMGAD
—EL KANTARA.

There are several places of interest to be seen on the way to Biskra. The railway junction for Biskra is El Guerrah, which is on the Constantine-Biskra line, so that it is easy to visit Constantine which is then only one hour's journey.

Constantine, 290 miles from Algiers, is built on a huge precipitous rock 2,600 feet in height, which looks as if it had been dropped on to the plain, the only communication with the mainland being by a narrow, rocky isthmus. The mass is split lengthways, forming a ravine through which runs the Rummel, a roaring torrent. This gorge is the most remarkable feature of



[Hyam, photo.]

Capital of Column at Timgad.

a remarkable city. It is spanned towards its northern extremity by four natural bridges, and an iron gallery has been erected along its side to allow travellers to pass through it, an excursion which alone is worth the journey. Its narrowness, for it is but 200 or 300 feet in width, renders its depth even more imposing, and

the only drawback to one's enjoyment is the thoughtlessness of the authorities in allowing the air to be polluted by the sewage which trickles down the sides.

Leaving by the northern end, a magnificent valley suddenly bursts upon the view through which the river winds on its way to the sea. Turning to the right the traveller returns to the city by a circuitous route of the greatest beauty, hewn and blasted out of the solid rock.



Statue of Æsculapius
at Timgad.

The capture of Constantine was one of the most brilliant feats of arms in the conquest of Algeria, a fact that will be appreciated by those who have taken stock of the colossal features of this natural, and, one would have thought, impregnable fortress.

The gorge is spanned by an imposing metal bridge, built by the French, far below which are to be seen the remains of ancient bridges. Two other bridges have recently been built high over the chasm, marvels of engineering audacity.

There is plenty to be seen in the city and its different quarters, its mosques, palaces, ruins, &c., not to speak of the various categories of natives.

TIMGAD.

These extensive Roman ruins, of which year by year more are brought to light, thanks to persevering excavations, are reached *via* Batna, a station on the Constantine-Biskra line, thence by carriage or motor, a distance of about twenty-six miles.

Six miles from Batna, on the way to Timgad, is

Lambessa, where at one time was stationed the famous Third Augustan Legion. Excavation is still being carried on by convicts from the neighbouring military prison. The principal building is a large square structure, once the headquarters of the Roman military staff, but there are various arches and vestiges of buildings, *inter alia* the Temple of Æsculapius. Many acres of the camp have already been unearthed and partly reconstituted.



Roman Fountain.

Batna and Timgad lie on a plateau at an altitude of about 3,000 feet. The road between the two places is dreary, there being no trees and but a scanty growth of vegetation. Here and there are Arab encampments, numerous storks, and herds of camels. The sterility becomes more pronounced the nearer one gets to Timgad, and one wonders what the Romans could have found attractive in such a wilderness. The explanation is, in all probability, that the city was



Trajan's Arch, Timgad.

“These ages have no memory, but they left
A record in the desert—columns strown
On the waste sands and statues fallen and cleft
Heaped like a host in battle overthrown ;
Vast ruins where the mountain's ribs of stone
Were hewn into a city.”

—*Bryant.*



Street in Timgad.

[*Leder, photo.*

formerly surrounded by gardens, and that in Roman times the wastes were covered with forests: the altitude must have rendered its climate agreeable even in the heat of summer.

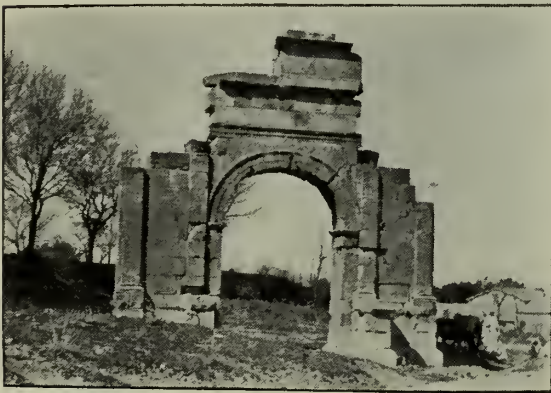
By and by the driver points out a spot on the hillside bristling with columns—Tim-gad—and soon the conveyance draws up at the unique inn



Under-surface of Roman Tiles—Juvenile humour of eighteen centuries ago.

which, by the way, is indifferently kept, though the food is good. There are official guides to show visitors round, and the curator of the museum, proud of his trust, is never weary of expatiating on the marvels in

his charge. The museum contains some brilliant mosaics and numerous pieces of statuary, domestic utensils, jewels, &c., and should on no account be overlooked.



Temple of Æsculapius.

This is not an excursion to be hurried

over, for at least one clear day can be spent to advantage in wandering over these relics of a distant past.

EL KANTARA.

This village is the station at the cleft in the Aurès Mountains, the “Gates of Hercules,” which gives access to the Sahara. The gorge, though short, is

impressive, and every one who can spare time should spend at any rate an afternoon there, especially as a comfortable hotel (Hôtel Bertrand) is available. The



Gorge at El Kantara.

. . . . "This is the scene
Where the old earthquake demon taught her young."

oued, or river, is very pretty and is spanned by a one-arch Roman bridge, rather the worse for restoration, and on the southern side of the gorge are three populous oases buried in palm trees which can be inspected at leisure.

Numerous Roman inscriptions have been deciphered, one of them to the effect that the Third Augustan Legion once occupied this spot and no doubt built the bridge.

A few miles further on and one obtains a first glimpse of the infinite desert, shimmering in the haze, dotted here and there with clumps of palms, indicating the sites of oases.

Within three-quarters of an hour's walk is the famous mountain of salt.

HAMMAM MESKOUTINE.

This is off the main line to Biskra, being about three hours by rail from Constantine in the direction of Tunis. Still, it is such a remarkable freak of Nature as to be well worthy of a visit, time permitting.

The hot springs which issue from the ground by a number of small geysers yield some 25,000,000 gallons daily of almost boiling water (203° F.).

The water, giving off clouds of vapour, runs in a series of cascades over a wide ledge of rock which is thickly coated with dazzling white and pink deposit, the water escaping thence through

a sylvan glen. The water is highly calcareous and petrifies everything with which it comes into contact.



Round about the springs are a number of huge cones formed of concretions left by the escaping water, and these give a most curious aspect to the landscape. A tragic legend is associated with one group of these cones (a variant of the story of Lot's wife), which are believed to represent the parties to an incestuous marriage who were thus transformed as a mark of Divine displeasure.



The Boiling Springs at Hammam Meskoutine. The Cascade.

About a mile farther down the valley is a large cavern with an underground warm-water lake which can be explored in boats provided with means of illumination.

There is a nice hotel and a small bathing establishment belonging to Mr. Mercier. In the gardens are numerous Roman remains that have been dug up in the neighbourhood. Several places of interest are within easy reach.

BISKRA.

"Oh that the desert were my dwelling place."



Monument to Cardinal Lavignerie.

BISKRA, the desert city, 400 miles from Algiers, is an agglomeration of oases to the south of the Aurès Mountains, which has become a very popular resort during the last few years. It is only 360 feet above sea-level, and the climate during the winter is delightful for the most part, the only drawback being occasional high winds and dust-storms. The temperature in the shade averages 60° F. during the winter season (November to May), and the total annual rainfall does not exceed a few inches. The maximum and minimum temperatures for the three months, December, January, and February (average of six years' observations) were 61° and 42° F.

Within the sphere of influence of the carefully

husbanded water supply the soil is remarkably fertile and vegetation is exuberant. The oasis of Biskra alone contains upwards of seven hundred thousand date palms, beside other fruit-bearing trees, and this luxuriance of growth is in startling contrast with the surrounding aridity. The average yield of a date palm is from 100 to 200 lb. a year, and as it requires very little attention beyond watering, the income is clear profit.



Roman Tombs at Lambessa.

There are plenty of objects of interest in Biskra and its immediate neighbourhood. The town, with its 10,000 inhabitants, affords the traveller a first frank glimpse of "slumbrous, lustful, vindictive Orient." Its streets and marts are thronged by an innumerable crowd, negroes from Timbuctoo, Arabs, Jews and Moors, in all manner of raiment, from rags to highly coloured robes, jostling and seething, bawling and sweating, in fact, to quote the words of a recent

writer,¹ "all the odds and ends of more or less equivocal generation, not classed under separate headings, all garbs, types, languages, and classes intermingled in a common sociability." Their commerce and their distractions are a constant source of amusement to the European nomad who, camera in hand, wanders through the market or along the banks of the irrigation streams in the original settlement, the so-called "Old Biskra," which is about a mile away from the



An Ex-Voto. [Jules Marchand, photo.]

modern town.

Biskra is the great commercial centre of the Sahara and every day caravans of jaded camels and their scowling, swearing drivers come in from the desert and disband at the caravansaries. The back streets in the early morning are full of camels, or rather dromedaries, with their heads thrown up, sniffing the air "like a Britisher," as I heard someone remark.

There are a number of oases scattered over the desert within easy reach, all well worth visiting, though, it is true, not in search of health, for the



Excursion into the Desert.

¹ "In the Desert," by March Phillips.

“smell of the East” is everywhere painfully to the fore in these native quarters. The houses, great and small, are built almost exclusively of bricks of sun-baked clay, the better-class buildings being faced with a layer of white-washed cement. There is a really fine garden, the Villa Benevent, belonging to Count Landon, beautifully kept and of considerable extent, to which visitors have access on paying 2 f. entrance.



A Street Incident.

The desert round Biskra may fairly be described as the naked countenance of earth, consisting for the most part of parched soil strewn with pebbles or encrusted with salt, lying bare under “the lidless eye of heaven.” Somewhat farther afield are the sand dunes, where picturesquely ragged urchins tout for coppers, undeterred by the scorching rays of the sun. The impression made by these immense spaces is uncommunicably strange; it is a landscape entirely of distances where one appreciates the grandeur of mere vastness. Visitors are apt to run away with the impression that it is “a level landscape rolled out flat,” but this is only owing to the absence of anything to fix the attention. While in one part it is a wide level

expanse of brownish soil with here and there tufts of rank yellow grass and diminutive olive-green or silver-grey bushes, elsewhere the soil is thickly covered with rippling undulations of fine sand. Farther afield¹ it is diversified by rocks and tablelands, seamed by ravines and dry watercourses; it has its valleys, its mountains, and its plains. The pink and yellow mountains, the limitless stretch of dull yellow desert, the implacable blue sky, and, over all, the steady glare of the African sun, make up a picture not to be seen north of the Aurès.



Mounted Arab.

From the minaret of the mosque one obtains a view of the glorious sunsets. As evening advances and the shadows deepen the light on the Aurès Mountains runs through a whole gamut of shades of colour, beginning with a flush of vivid yet delicate pink, set off against the velvet sky in which hang a few crimson clouds, gradually fading away into a

transparent blue haze. Then, as darkness falls, the colours dissolve and the rocks glisten like mother-of-pearl in the infinite stillness of space.

There is a plentiful supply of water for irrigation purposes, but the drinking water, though pure, is rather brackish. Travellers will do well to drink only the bottled table waters, which are agreeable and safe.

¹ For information concerning the principal form of vegetable life in the desert, see "La Flore Saharienne" (Jourdan, publisher, Algiers), a photographic album of Saharian plants.

Apart from the liability to dust inherent to such a rainless climate, Biskra is an ideal residence for the phthisical on account of its genial warmth, dryness, and brightness. The dust-storms indeed are trying, but they are infrequent, and one has the resource of



Street Scene at Biskra.

[Hyam, photo.]

remaining indoors while they last. The climate is suitable for the subjects of chronic renal disease, provided they are strong enough to withstand the fatigue of travelling ; and this applies also to cases of chronic cardio-vascular disease, diabetes, neurasthenia, anæmia, and rheumatism. The effect of the climate in relieving

old-standing rheumatic troubles, neuralgia, and the various forms of neuritis, is really remarkable. It is an admirable resort for those who stand in need of warmth and sunshine, if only they feel equal to the task of amusing themselves, otherwise even the proximity of the desert will not avert boredom, once the novelty of the surroundings has worn off. For the strong and active there is ample scope for equestrian exercise over the sandy plain, and plenty of shooting, quails and partridges being fairly numerous, and bustards, gazelles, mufﬂon (wild sheep), jackals, and the like, are within reach.



An Express Camel. [Jules Marchand, photo.]

There is an important religious festival, the “festival of the sheep,” when the natives assemble in their thousands for public worship. It takes place in a spot about a mile outside Biskra and provides an interesting spectacle.

The great local fête is in February, when there are camel and horse races, fantasias, pigeon and quail shooting, &c. This attracts numerous visitors and is really worth seeing, affording as it does an opportunity to view another aspect of life in the desert.

Biskra is to become the "aviation centre" for the Sahara, and the spectacle of these mechanical birds soaring into space will constitute an additional and unquestionable attraction.

The railway, of which Biskra has hitherto been the terminus, is now being extended to Toougourt, an oasis 180 miles further south.



At his Devotions.

HAMMAM SALAHIN.

At a distance of four miles from Biskra is the Thermal Establishment of "Hamman-Salahim," known in French as *Fontaine Chaude*. It is reached in about half an hour by a small tramway running across part of the desert where the soil is coated with a glittering deposit of salt. The water, which flows from the spring at a temperature of 116° F., at the rate of 500,000 gallons in the twenty-four hours, is rich in saline constituents, principally lime and soda in combination with chlorine, sulphur, and carbonic acid. The sulphur is present in the form of sulphide of calcium, and there are also traces of iron. The waters are held in great repute, not only by Europeans,

but also by the natives who come thither from incredible distances for the relief of rheumatism, chronic diseases of the urinary tract, uterine affections, anæmia, laryngeal catarrh, and various cutaneous lesions, especially tertiary syphilitic manifestations. The buildings assigned to the natives are quite separate from the general establishment. The effects of the waters are tonic, stimulating, diuretic, diaphoretic, and resolvent.

The establishment provides accommodation for a limited number of resident patients, who are received



The Baths, Hamman Salahin.

en pension on very reasonable terms, and the cost of the baths is trifling. The private baths are large, but of primitive construction, and there are various piscines or swimming baths. The usual appliances for douching under pressure are provided.

The great drawback is the distance of the establishment from Biskra, and visitors cannot be too strongly cautioned against the danger, after bathing, of riding back to Biskra in the open tram-car in the chilly late afternoon air. If, as has been suggested, the water is brought in pipes to Beni Mora, practically part of Biskra, and utilized in a building constructed on a European model, there is little doubt that it would become very popular, since the therapeutically active

waters would be delivered at a temperature of 104° F., which is quite sufficient, and would be available under extremely favourable climatic conditions at a time of year when all similar resorts north of the Mediterranean are closed.



Returning from Market.



The First Motor Car in Algeria.

EXCURSIONS.

ONE of the charms of wintering in Algiers is the almost unlimited scope for excursions, far and near, throughout these vast territories. Not to speak of the delightful walks within a radius of five or six miles, which can be multiplied almost indefinitely, there are carriage drives in every direction commanding views of hill, plain, and sea, the tortuous roads opening up a fresh vista at every turn.



Roman Ruins at Tigzirt, near Dellys.

Of the more distant places some are accessible by railway, tram, or diligence; others can only be conveniently reached by motor-car; but at present the rapid development of the motor excursion traffic bids fair to extend the convenience of the car to all and sundry. Particulars of these trips can be obtained on application to the *Comité d'Hivernage*, No. 1 rue Combe (at the corner of the Place du Gouvernement), or at the General Tourist Agency, 7, boulevard de la République, at the corner of the Square Bresson.

BLIDA AND THE GORGES DE LA CHIFFA.

Blida is an important military centre about thirty miles west of Algiers. The main road runs through



the villages of Birmandreis,¹ Birkadem, Birtouta, Boufarik, and Beni Mered, where there is a monument commemorating the gallant defence of Sergeant Blandan and his score of soldiers (1842), most of whom perished in resisting the attack of 300 mounted Arabs, who were lying in wait

for the detachment. A slab of rock with an inscription, on the right of the road before reaching Beni Mered, marks the exact spot of the disaster.

Blida is situated at the foot of the Atlas Mountains, and there is a delightful excursion on foot or muleback to *Les Glacières* (4,700 feet), a small hotel on the fringe of an immense forest of huge cedars (see p. 71).

There is a large military stud farm, with accommodation for 300 horses, at Blida, permission to visit



[Geiser, photo.
Negro from Morocco Frontier.

¹ The prefix "bir" in Arabic signifies "well," hence the frequency with which it recurs in the names of places. Birmandreis, for instance, means the captain's well (from *reis*, captain); Birkadem means the slave's well (from *khadem*, slave), and so on. "Beni" means children, and "bou" means father.

which can be obtained. Blida is the centre of the orange industry, and the "mandarines de Blida" are specially reputed, immense quantities being exported to France. The town itself presents no feature of particular interest, but seven miles further on are the famous *Gorges de la Chiffa*, which are well worth a visit.

The usual plan is to take the train to Blida and then charter a conveyance to the Gorges. The road crosses the *Ruisseau des Singes*, a thickly wooded ravine inhabited by wild monkeys. There is a comfortable inn where lunch can be had, but it is well to telephone ahead.

TIPAZA AND CHERCHELL.

These two places make a good one-day motor excursion, and are interesting on account of their ruins. Tipaza is about fifty miles west of Algiers, and Cherchell is fourteen miles farther on. On a motor trip it is a good plan to go *via* Cheragas and Marengo, returning by the seaside road, which affords a delightful view of the rockbound coast; or one can go to Hammam R'Irha, and thence *via* Marengo to Cherchell and Tipaza, but this entails sleeping somewhere on the road—preferably at Hamman R'Irha.



Statue at Cherchell.

CHERCHELL, under the name of *Cæsarea*, was once the capital of Mauritania, and is rich in crumbling ruins, *inter alia* the remains of Juba's palace. Some mutilated but still admirable statuary is to be seen in the museum, and at every step one stumbles on the

débris of a glorious past. A visit should be paid to the Oriental carpet manufactory under the management of English lady missionaries, in the rue Lieutenant Pradier.

On the road to Tipaza, six miles from Cherchell, are the colossal remains of the aqueduct that once supplied Cæsarea with water. This is as fine a specimen of Roman architecture as is to be seen in Algeria.

TIPAZA, now a peaceful fishing village, is an agglomeration of ruins, for the most part still half buried.



Native Conjurer and Snake Charmer.

In places the very soil rings hollow, and the surface bristles with fragments of columns, half-razed villas, and the heterogeneous remains of a once populous Roman seaport. There are some beautiful sarcophagi in bas-relief, and substantial remains of a theatre, Christian church, basilica, &c.; in short, there is sufficient to occupy a whole afternoon.

On the road home one catches sight of the *Tombeau de la Chrétienne*, the venerable remains of a building the origin of which is wrapped in obscurity. This is a landmark for many miles round.

Algiers is re-entered through the quarters of Deux Moulins and St. Eugène.

Tipaza and Cherchell can also be reached by tram to Marengo, and then by diligence, but this entails spending a night at one or the other.

LE TOMBEAU DE LA CHRETIENNE.

This circular monument, thirty-five miles from Algiers, standing on a hill nearly 800 feet above sea-level, is a landmark for many miles round. It was probably the sepulchre of the kings of Mauritania, but if so it must have been rifled in ages long ago, for nothing of interest has been found therein. It is a crumbling, ruinous mass, interesting only on account of its associations.

STAOUELI—THE MONASTERY OF LA TRAPPE.

It is a pleasant drive to Staoueli and the Trappist monastery, which is a big quadrangular building with a courtyard surrounded by cloisters, and a chapel. In its immediate vicinity are the farm and the workshops, but the monks are no longer there to give animation to the scene, having shared the fate of the religious orders in general—viz., expulsion. The building only dates from 1843.

It was at Staoueli that, on June 19, 1830, the French army, having landed at Sidi¹ Ferruch, five miles away, carried off its first victory over the Dey's forces before proceeding to bombard Algiers, and the five stately palms under which the Commander dictated conditions to the Arab chiefs are still to be seen.

BOUGIE AND THE GORGES DU CHABET.

This is an excursion on no account to be omitted. Bougie, a town of some 14,000 inhabitants, is situated

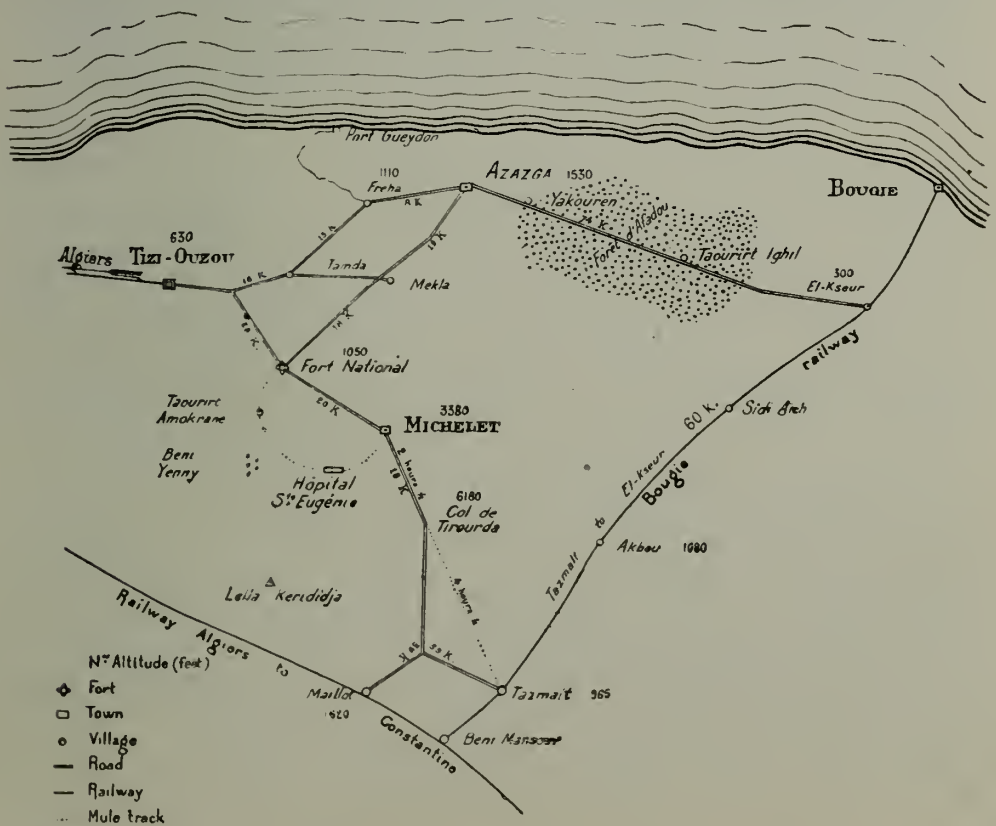
¹ "Sidi" signifies "Mister."

on the coast about 170 miles from Algiers. Its general aspect much resembles that of the latter, and it is the chief port of Kabylia. It has a chequered history, having been successively Carthaginian, Roman, Berber, Turkish, and now French. It occupies a charming site, and comprises remains of some archæological interest. It is surrounded by groves of orange, pomegranate, and fig trees.

From the excursionist's point of view, however, its interest lies chiefly in the fact that it is the starting-point for the *Gorges du Chabet*. Having travelled from Algiers to Bougie by rail or road, the best plan is to engage a private conveyance, the diligences being vastly uncomfortable. This is the finest pass in Algeria, and the scenery between Kerrata and Mount Okas is hardly to be surpassed anywhere.

KABYLIA.

A trip through *La grande Kabylie* is one of the great treats in store for visitors to Algeria. Kabylia, the



extensive mountain district east of Algiers, is inhabited by a hardy race of men who differ in many important respects from the Arab; they are lighter of skin, and allow their womanfolk more liberty in the matter of unveiling their faces, without depriving them of the liberty to do most of the hard work.

The usual course is to travel *via* Tizi Ouzou or Bordj bou Areridj to Fort National, Michelet, and the Tirourda Pass (6,180 feet).



Village in Kabylia.

At Michelet one secures a guide and mules in order to explore the country. There are no roads, properly speaking, only mule tracks, and rough at that. These tracks often run along the edges of precipices where a stumble would have serious consequences, and one reflects thankfully on the fact that mules rejoice in a reputation for surefootedness.

La Kabylie is full of deep, narrow valleys between frowning rocks, down which pour numerous cascades, and thanks to this unlimited supply of water, derived from the melting of the snow on the high plateaux, the country is extremely fertile. The land is covered with forests of cork oak, with lenticus, olive trees,

vines, cedars, and fig trees. The grass is always green, and one has the impression of an eternal spring.

Villages in Kabylia are usually built on the tops of hills, access to them being rendered difficult by crags and precipices. The town itself is a tangle of narrow streets or alleys between low, smoke-grimed mud houses covered with red tiles.

The uninterrupted line of house-backs answers the purpose of a town-wall, for they are built to the very rock edge. Each house encloses a courtyard, common to several families, where manure accumulates until required. Windows there are none, only chinks which allow the inmates to see without being seen. The only buildings of any size are the *Djema*, or Town Council Chamber, and the Mosque with its minaret.



A 4-h.p. Motor Car.

The natives display no enmity towards visitors ; indeed, as possible customers, they are welcomed, for it is here that they manufacture the native jewelry sold in Algiers, inlaid arms, primitive pottery, and the odds and ends of Kabyle art.

The tortuous roads run up and down and round about steep hills clothed to their summits in verdure ; one catches sight of range after range of mountains enveloped in purple haze, in ever-changing variety of form and hue, with, in the distance, the imposing mass of the Djurjura (7,500 feet) capped with snow, the king of Algerian mountains.

The principal places to be visited on this excursion are: Bordj Medjana, Bordj Coni, Gelaa, Ighil, Ali Akbou, and Ti-Filkouth.

BOU SAÄDA.

This interesting oasis, hitherto beyond the range of the everyday tourist, is 172 miles from Algiers. It has now been brought within easy reach of Algiers by the completion of a military road, so that it is only one day's motor journey. It can also be reached by



A Caravan on the March.

diligence from Bordj bou Arreridj *via* M'Sila, but at the price of tedious discomfort. It is some 2,000 feet above sea-level, so that it is often very cold in winter.

The splendidly engineered main road from Algiers runs through panoramas of wild mountain scenery to Aumale (3,000 feet). Aumale is a military centre of some importance and contains many Roman remains. Thence it is a fine run down to the desert, across which the new road leads to the oasis.

Bou Saïda, also a military centre, is an excellent example of an, as yet, un-Europeanized oasis and attracts many artists in search of pictures of Oriental life. It is surrounded by palmeries and orchards, and is famous for its carpets and rugs.

HAMMAM MELOUAN.

A nice afternoon's motor excursion is to Hammam Melouan, a hot ferruginous spring held in high repute by the natives. It is reached *via* Rovigo at a distance of 25 miles from Algiers. Melouan signifies "coloured,"



The Holy Well.

the water having a reddish tint due to the presence of oxide of iron. It is situated in a picturesque valley. There is an inn with primitive bathing establishment and a holy well, near which is a tree from which are suspended hundreds of little *ex votos* left by grateful pilgrims in the shape of tiny sachets containing bits of parchment inscribed with verses from the Koran.

Friday is the best day for this excursion because it is the Arabs' holy day and numbers of them go thither for physical and moral regeneration.

TUNIS.

As so many travellers in Algeria arrive from, or return to, Europe *via* Tunis, it may be well to give a



A Street in the Native City.

brief description of the city, which is the thriving capital of the French Protectorate (Tunisia, formerly called *Libya*).¹ It has some 200,000 inhabitants, half of them Moslems, the remainder made up of French, Jews, Italians, and Maltese.

The town is sharply

divided into two parts, the old town (or towns, for there are several) and the new. The latter is laid out on the usual modern French lines with spacious boulevards and leafy avenues. The El-Medina, or native business quarter, is entered through a massive gateway known as the *Porte de France*, which leads straight into the



A City Gate. [F. A. Ratcliff, photo.]

¹ Tunis can be reached by the fine turbine steamers of the Transatlantique Company from Marseilles in about twenty-six hours (see advert.).

tunnel-like alleys ramifying in every direction, in which are the *souks* or bazaars. These alleys are covered in, either by buildings or canvas, as a protection against the sun. This gives them a sombre appearance which is counterbalanced by the extraordinary animation that prevails among the noisy, motley crowds of persons of various hues, clad in every conceivable variety of garb. The amateur photographer will find inexhaustible scope for the exercise of his art in these picturesque alleys, though he will often be hampered by



Place Halfaouine : Mosque Sahab Taba.

the "dim religious light" which prevents his obtaining snapshots of the denizens of these industrial hives, and it is not often that they can be induced to connive at his attempts.

The women-folk present a most curious appearance, for they veil their faces with black crêpe, which has a very startling effect. The Jewesses, however, attired in skin-tight trousers and short jackets, wear peaked bonnets something like the old-fashioned Quaker hat minus the brim, tilted backwards at a rakish angle.

Each alley is devoted to a particular manufacture :

saddlery, metal workers, fruit and dry goods dealers, and so on, and are named accordingly.

The general aspect of this quarter is quite unique and in no wise resembles that of Algiers or Constantine.

In a street called El Zitouna is the great mosque of that name, which was formerly the Spanish cathedral of St. Olive, connected with which is a Mohammedan university.

There is a special Jewish quarter, the "Hara," to the north of the city, which is worth visiting on account of the strange costumes to be seen there.



Qui vive?

[Yules Marchand, photo.]

A visit should be paid to the Dar-el-Bey, the town residence of the Bey. Permission can be obtained to visit the private apartments, which comprise some gems of Moorish decoration, equal, says Playfair, to anything in the Alhambra.

Carthage is about ten miles from Tunis, but only a few crumbling monuments now remain to mark the site of the populous city before whose might even Rome quailed. There is a fine cathedral built by, and containing the tomb of that combative prelate, Cardinal Lavigerie. The museum contains many relics of hoary antiquity—Runic vases, Roman bas-

reliefs, Carthaginian medals and coins, terra-cottas, objects of pagan and Christian worship, sepulchral stones, &c. Among the with-difficulty-identified remains are the Palace of Dido, the Temple of Æsculapius, the Forum, the Great Basilica, the arenas and the theatre.

The Bardo, formerly the summer palace of the Beys of Tunis, is about half an hour's drive outside the city, and though much dilapidated is, nevertheless, the most interesting and characteristic building of its kind. Access to the private apartments is gained by the



celebrated "Staircase of the Lions." On the way thither will be seen the great Roman aqueduct, some eight miles in length, still in excellent preservation, which wends its sinuous way until it is lost to view between the low hills.

Swinburne describes the torrid desert heat in his fine descriptive verse :

"The naked noon is upon me, the fierce dull spell,
The fearful charm of the strong sun's imminent might,
Unmerciful, steadfast, deeper than seas that swell,
Pervades, invades, appals me with loveless light,
With harsher awe than breathes the breath of night."

There are various excursions to be made from Tunis : Hammam Lif (the greater part of one day),

Oudna and Zaghouan (two days), Kairouan (three days), &c.

Special facilities are provided for excursions into the desert, either singly or in parties, by Messrs. Pernull and Myddleton, 39, Avenue Jules Ferry, Tunis. (For details see advertisement at end of book.)

HOW TO GET TO ALGIERS.



On a Norddeutscher.

The traveller has the choice of several routes from England to Algiers, overland to Marseilles, Port Vendres, Barcelona, or Alicante and thence by steamer; by sea to Marseilles, where he changes to the boat for Algiers, or the all-sea trip from London or Liverpool. Many will doubtless prefer the sea, a voyage on any of the well-appointed vessels being an agreeable prelude to a sojourn in Algeria. The sea trip, however, takes time, and liability to sea-sickness effectually quenches any desire for what under ordinary circumstances would be an enjoyable experience.

London to Marseilles.*Overland.*

			FARES.						
			First Class			Second Class			
<i>Via</i> Dover and Calais	Sing.	£6	15	2	£4	12	11
			Ret.	10	13	9	7	15	2
„ Folkestone and Boulogne	Sing.	6	8	6	4	7	11
			Ret.	10	13	9	7	15	2
„ Dieppe and Paris	Sing.	5	17	4	4	1	7
			Ret.	9	4	9	6	12	11
„ Le Havre and Paris	Sing.	5	12	3	3	19	2
			Ret.	8	14	7	6	6	1

London to Algiers.*Through Overland Journey via Paris and Marseilles.*

		First Class.	Second Class.
<i>Via</i> Dover and Calais, or Folkestone and Boulogne, and Transatlantique from Marseilles	Sing.	£10 11 2	£7 7 8
	Ret.	16 3 9	11 17 10
„ Dieppe, Transatlantique from Marseilles	Sing.	9 9 5	6 13 8
	Ret.	13 13 3	10 0 7
„ Southampton and Havre and Marseilles	Sing.	9 4 3	6 10 2

There are several lines of steamers running from Marseilles to Algiers. The

COMPAGNIE GÉNÉRALE TRANSATLANTIQUE.

Head Office, 6, rue Auber, Paris.

Marseilles—Algiers—Tunis.

The service of steamers between Marseilles and Algiers and Marseilles and Tunis has been completely reorganized. In addition to the fine, large turbine steamer, "Charles Roux," which effects the crossing Marseilles-Algiers in about twenty hours, Tunis is reached in the "Carthage" in twenty-six hours.

A third steamer, of the same luxurious, rapid type, the "Timgad," has just been added to the service, thus enabling the company to double the number of rapid services between Algiers and Marseilles. This mag-

nificent ship, which has three decks, is 125 metres in length and upwards of 60 metres in width, with a displacement of 5,100 tons. It provides accommodation for 169 first-class passengers, ninety-four second class and seventy third class. It is provided with engines of 9,000 h.p., and has a speed of 19 knots. The hull is divided into nine watertight compartments with a watertight double bottom running the entire length of the vessel.



Splendid promenade deck, 145 metres in circumference, protected by glazed screens against wind and sea, so as to render it accessible to travellers in all weathers.

Cabines de Luxe. Wireless telegraphic installation for use of travellers. Sanitary arrangements *hors concours*. Free ventilation of cabins in all classes (see advertisement).

Marseilles to Algiers; Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 1 p.m.

Algiers to Marseilles : Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 12.30 p.m.

Fares.—First class, 96 fr. ; second class, 69 fr.

COMPAGNIE DE NAVIGATION MIXTE (TOUACHE).

This company runs express steamers to Algiers from Marseilles and from Port Vendres (mail route), the former taking about twenty-eight hours, and the latter, by the well-appointed steamer “La Marsa,” in about twenty hours. The company has recently put a new rapid 4,000-ton steamer, the “Mustapha,” on the Marseilles-Algiers line, which, for comfort and good catering, really leaves nothing to be desired. It is provided with a wireless telegraphic installation.

Marseilles to Algiers : Thursday, 11.45 a.m.

Algiers to Marseilles : Saturday, 6 p.m.

Port Vendres to Algiers : Sunday, 3.30 p.m.

Algiers to Port Vendres and Cette : Wednesday, 12 a.m.

The rapid mail service *via* Port Vendres is in correspondence with the Paris-Barcelona expresses.

Fares.—Marseilles-Algiers (direct), first class 75 fr. ; second class, 51 fr. Cette or Port Vendres to Algiers : first class, 95 fr. ; second class, 68 fr.

(Including meals.)

N.B.—*As the hours of departure are varied from time to time, it will be prudent for intending passengers to verify the above table.*

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE DE TRANSPORTS MARITIMES.

Marseilles to Algiers : Wednesday and Saturday at 6 p.m.

Algiers to Marseilles : Wednesday and Saturday at 5 p.m.

Fares.—By “Russie” and “Savoie,” first class, single, 75 fr.; second class, 48 fr.

On all other boats the first class single fare is 65 fr.; second class, 43 fr.

The crossing takes about thirty hours.

London—Paris—Barcelona—Palma—Algiers.

This recently organized “rapid service” presents the advantage of giving the traveller a glimpse of Spain, and it enables him to pass a day at Palma, the chief town of the charming Balearic Islands. The steamer takes twelve hours from Barcelona to Palma, where it heaves to for the day. Leaving Palma the same evening it takes thirteen hours to reach Algiers.

Barcelona to Palma and Algiers on Wednesday, 6.30 p.m.; Algiers to Palma and Barcelona, Saturday, 5 p.m.

In order to avoid troublesome delay at the Spanish frontier (Port Bou), all luggage should be registered through to Barcelona. Hand baggage should bear a label showing destination (Algiers, in Spanish *Argel*), which will dispense with the necessity for customs examination.

The address of the Barcelona agents is “Isla Maritima,” Paseo Isabel II. No. 3.

Fares.—70 fr. first class, 50 fr. second class, exclusive of food.

London to Barcelona.

				FARES					
				First Class			Second Class		
<i>Via</i> Dover and Calais	...	...	Sing.	£8	7	6	£5	16	10
„ Folkestone or Boulogne	...	...	„	8	0	11	5	11	1
Dieppe or Havre	...	...	„	7	9	7	5	4	7

The railway journey from Paris takes twenty hours *via* Bordeaux and Toulouse; twenty-four hours *via* Toulouse direct.

ALL-SEA ROUTES.

The **Nederland Royal Mail Line** maintains a regular fortnightly service from England to Algiers, and *vice versa*. The outward steamers leave Southampton on alternate Tuesdays (1 p.m. from Extension Pier), reaching Lisbon on Friday (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Tangier on Saturday, and Algiers early on the following Monday morning. Special train from Waterloo station.

The service comprises only first-class steamers replete with every modern convenience; all first-class accommodation is in single and two-berth rooms, and there are no overhead berths. Electric fans can be had without extra charge. The cuisine is of the highest order.

Fares.		Single.		Return.
First Class	...	£11 0 0	...	£16 10 0
Second Class	...	7 10 0	...	11 5 0

Full particulars, with illustrated handbooks, can be obtained from:—

London: H. V. Elkins, 60, Haymarket, S.W.

Algiers: Felix Bergeret, 5, Boulevard Carnot.

Chief Office: Prins Hendrikkade, 159-160, Amsterdam.

The **North German Lloyd Co.** have inaugurated a regular service from Southampton to Algiers direct, and *vice versa*. Three sailings monthly. First, second, and third class.

Fares—

First class	...	£13 0 0	} including surtax of 10 per cent.
Second class	...	8 10 0	
Third class	...	4 0 0	

A reduction of 20 per cent. on the return journey within six months.

These magnificent steamers do the journey—

Southampton to Algiers, including a call at Gibraltar—in *five days*. They are splendidly equipped and replete with every comfort.

Details can be obtained from :—

Messrs. Keller, Wallis and Co., 26, Cockspur Street, London, S.W., and Richard Heckmann, Algiers.

P. & O. COMPANY'S SERVICE.

A steamer belonging to this company leaves Tilbury (or Tilbury Docks) every Friday for Marseilles. A special train starts from Liverpool Street Station (G.E.R.), at 12.25 p.m., on the day of embarkation, and when, owing to the tide, the ship is off Tilbury, a commodious river steamer conveys the passengers aboard. Fares to Tilbury Dock, 2s., first single; return, 3s.

Fares, to Marseilles :—

First class, single, £12. Return, £18.

Second class, £8. Return, £12.

The Company issues through tickets to Algiers by the Transatlantique Co.'s boats. The voyage from London to Marseilles takes about eight days. Passengers can return to London by any of the company's steamers or overland *via* Paris to London, or *vice versa*.

THE PAPAYANNI LINE.

(*The Ellerman Lines.*)

A steamer leaves Liverpool for Algiers direct at least once or twice a month, and occasionally there are extra sailings according to seasonal requirements.

Fare—£9 (no reduction on return tickets).

N.B.—Only first-class passengers are booked.

THE BIBBY LINE.

This company's fast twin-screw steamers run from Liverpool to Marseilles once a fortnight. Passengers have the option of travelling from London to Marseilles, or *vice versa*, overland, first class.

Fare.—Saloon single, £8 8s.

THE MOSS LINE.

This company runs a fortnightly service from Liverpool to Algiers, calling at Gibraltar. The distance is 1,680 miles.

Fares—First class, single, £10. Second single, £7 7s.

BOOKS CONCERNING ALGIERS.

ENGLISH.

- “The Scourge of Christendom,” by Sir Lambert Playfair.
- “Esto Perpetua,” by H. Belloc.
- “Across the Desert,” by March Phillips.
- “The Tents of Shem,” by Grant Allen.
- “The New Playground, or Wanderings in Algeria,”
by Alex A. Knox.
- “Winters Abroad,” by R. H. Otter.
- “Travels in Africa,” by Hugh Murray.
- “Aldyth,” by Jessie Fothergill.
- “Algiers,” by Pananti.
- “Travels in Algiers,” by Anon.
- “Adventures in Algeria,” by Matthew Dudgeon.
- “Algiers and Beyond,” by Hilton Simpson.
- “Among the Arabs,” by Naphegge.
- “Life with the Hamram Arabs,” by Myers.
- “The Flora of Algeria,” by Dr. Gubb.
- “La Flore Algérienne,” by Dr. Gubb.
- “La Flore Saharienne,” by Dr. Gubb.
- “The Great Sahara,” by Tristram.
- “The Land of Mosques and Marabouts,” by the Hon.
Mrs. Greville Nugent.

- “The Pirate City,” by Ballantyne.
 “The White Lily of the Great Sahara,” by G. H. Eden.
 “The Voice of the South,” by Gilbert Watson.
 “Shaw’s Travels,” by Dr. Shaw.
 “Sketches of Algeria,” by Dr. Walmsley.
 “Under the Palms in Algeria and Tunis,” by the Hon.
 L. Wingfield.
 “Walks in Algiers,” by L. Seguin.
 “Winters in Algeria,” by F. A. Bridgman.
 “The Veil,” by E. S. Stevens (*re* Tunis).
 “Servitude,” by Mrs. Irene Osgood.
 “The Golden Silence,” by the Williamsons.
 “The Garden of Allah,” by Hichens.
 “Barbary Sheep,” by Hichens.

FRENCH.

- “Récits Algériens,” 2 vols, by E. Perret.
 “Conquête de l’Algérie,” by Alfred Nettement.
 “La Kasbah,” by E. Leclerc.
 “L’Algérie qui s’en va,” by Dr. Bernard.

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250 Rooms,
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 Baths and
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 gardens and
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 command-
 ing exten-
 sive views
 of valley,

mountains and lake. The latest comfort and luxury throughout.

E. Emundts, Manager.

BERNASCON, Proprietor.



LIST OF HOTELS.

Paris :

HOTEL DE LILLE ET D'ALBION, 223,
RUE ST. HONORÉ

Marseilles :

GRAND HOTEL DU LOUVRE ET DE
LA PAIX

Proprietors : L. ECHENARD-NEUSCHWANDER.

Mustapha-Supérieur :

St. GEORGE
CONTINENTAL
ALEXANDRA (late "Kirsch")
GRAND
BEAU-SÉJOUR

Algiers (Town) :

HOTEL DE LA REGENCE
HOTEL EXCELSIOR

Biskra :

ROYAL HOTEL

El Kantara :

HOTEL BERTRAND

Tunis :

TUNISIA PALACE HOTEL

South Eastern and Chatham Railway.

Chemin de Fer du Nord.

Chemins de Fer Paris, Lyon et Méditerranée.

EXPRESS DIRECT SERVICE

WINTER, 1912-13.

LONDON AND ALGIERS via MARSEILLES.

Dover—Calais, 59 minutes.

Marseilles—Algiers, 22 hours.

	1. 2.	1. 2. 3.	1. 2.	1. 2.		1. 2. 3.		
London dep.	a.m. 9.0	a.m. 10.0	a.m. 11.0	p.m. 2.20		p.m. 9.0		
Calais dep.	1.15	—	3.5	—		1.30		
Boulogne dep.	„	2.12	—	6.17		—		
Paris (Nord)..	arr.	4.45	5.20	6.45	9.16	5.40		
	dep.	6.6 p.m.		7.53	9.25	1.2	6.53	
Paris (P.L.M.)	arr.	6.42		8.32	9.55	7.32		
	dep.	7.0 p.m.		1st class 9.0 p.m.	1. 2. 3. 10.25	1st class 9a0 a.m.	1 & 2 cl. 9a15	1. 2. 3. 11a40	1. 2. 2.30
Marseille arr.	8.30 a.m.		8.40 a.m.	2.34 p.m.	7.25 p.m.	10.35 p.m.	5.50 a.m.	4.50 a.m.

In correspondence at Marseilles with the Steamers for Algiers.

	1. 2. 3.	1. 2.	1. 2. 3.	1st class	1. 2. 3.		
Marseilles dep.	p.m. 11.33	a.m. 3(a)39	a.m. 11.56	p.m. 8.15	p.m. 8.30		
Paris .L.M.)	arr.	5.10		6.5	8.0	10.20	
	dep.	1 & 2 7.1		1 & 2 7.1	1 & 2 8.42	1. 2. 11.5	
Paris (Nord)..	arr.	7.43		7.43	9.21	11.44	1. 2. 3. p.m.
	dep.	1. 2. 3. p.m. 9.20		1. 2. 3. 8.25	— 9.50	1 & 2 p.m. 12.0	1. 2. p.m. 2.30 4.0
Boulogne arr.	—		11.25	—	—	6.58	6.58
Calais arr.	1.23		—	1.11	3.31	—	—
London arr.	5.43 a.m.		3.25 p.m.	5.10 p.m.	7.5 p.m.	10.45 p.m.	10.45 p.m.

(a) Winter—November to May.

In correspondence at Marseilles with the Steamers from Algiers.

AIX-LES-BAINS (SAVOIE).



GRAND HOTEL D'ALBION,

First-class Hotel. Recherché Cooking.
Motor Garage. Tennis Court.
Replete with every Modern Comfort.
Fitted with English Sanitary Appliances.

Standing back from the main road on high ground the hotel is free from dust and noise.

Motor Omnibus at disposal of guests.

MERMOZ, Proprietor.

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE DE TRANSPORTS MARITIMES.

MARSEILLES--ALGIERS.

Bi-weekly Service in both directions by large, well-appointed steamers. Excellent accommodation for travellers.

Marseilles to Algiers : Wednesday and Saturday at 5 p.m.

Algiers to Marseilles : Wednesday and Saturday at 5 p.m.

FARES.

By the "Russie" and the "Savoie"	{ First Class Single, 75 fr.
	{ Second " 48 "
On the other boats	{ the First Class Single Fare is 65 fr.
	{ the Second " " 43 "

The crossing takes about thirty hours.



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THE BEST ROUTE FOR
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TO THE PRINCIPAL BRITISH HOLIDAY RESORTS.

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MORECAMBE
AND THE
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ISLE OF MAN
VIA
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during the Summer.

NORTH OF
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(Coasts of Antrim,
Derry and Donegal).
Via HEYSHAM.

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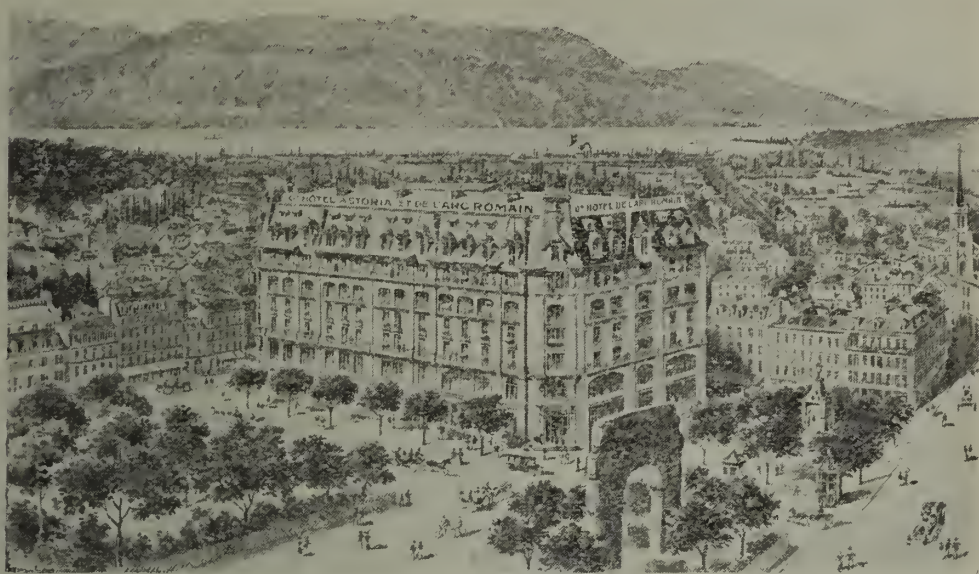


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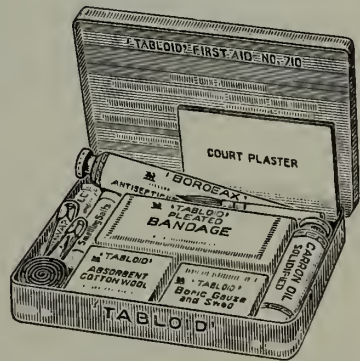
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			Rapid, Friday, 1 p.m. Sunday, 1 p.m.
BIZERTA	.	.	Friday, direct, midday.
BONE	.	.	Tuesday, direct, 5 p.m. Saturday, <i>via</i> Philippeville, midday.
BOUGIE	.	.	Tuesday, direct, midday. Wednesday, change at Algiers, 1 p.m.
COLLO	.	.	Tuesday, change at Algiers, 1 p.m.
DJIDJELLI	.	.	Tuesday, <i>via</i> Bougie, midday.
LA CALLE	.	.	Friday, change at Bizerta, midday.
ORAN	.	.	Rapid, Thursday, 5 p.m. Rapid, Saturday, 5 p.m.
PHILIPPEVILLE	.	.	Saturday, direct, midday. Tuesday, <i>via</i> Bone, 5 p.m.
TABARKA	.	.	Friday, change at Bizerta, midday.
TUNIS	.	.	Rapid, Monday, midday. Thursday, direct, midday.
			Friday, <i>via</i> Bizerta, midday.
SFAX	.	.	Friday, <i>via</i> Bizerta and Tunis, midday.
SOUSSE	.	.	Friday, <i>via</i> Bizerta and Tunis, midday.



ATLANTIC LINES.

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The "*Deux Reines*" water is remarkable for its lightness and its freedom from lime salts, qualities which render it particularly suitable for use as a table water and as a depurative agent for arthritic, rheumatic and gouty subjects. It contains an exceptional amount of free oxygen in solution (8 volumes per 1,000).

This freedom from mineral constituents confers upon the "*Deux Reines*" water peculiar diuretic properties which are



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